Land off Back Lane, Ramsbury, Wiltshire

Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

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Bristol: June 2023







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Abstract

Avon Archaeology Limited has undertaken an archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of five trenches within former kitchen gardens off Back Lane, Ramsbury, Wiltshire. No stratified archaeology was found within four of the trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 4 & 5). Excavated deposits did produce ceramic and flint artefacts, including medieval pottery and, in the case of the flint, probable Mesolithic items including a microlith and worked core. All were residual and, whilst they do point to background activity in the area, were not associated with stratified archaeology. Modern (19th-20th century) structural remains were identified, at shallow depth, toward the front (Back Lane) of the site, comprising a brick wall that probably reflects the foundations of a structure built against the garden wall forming the extant property boundary.

The only stratified archaeology recorded was isolated to Trench 3, where a sequence of interconnected pits, that appear to be of medieval date, were identified.

The evaluation has demonstrated that the site has only limited archaeological potential, and the deposits encountered can mostly be characterised as buried soils, most likely garden soil, with infrequent residual finds. The pits found within Trench 3 show that there was activity on the site in the medieval period, but it appears to be localised and more likely indicative of agricultural use than of domestic or industrial activity on the site directly.

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Figure 1

Site Location Map
Grid Lines at 1000m Intervals

The Site

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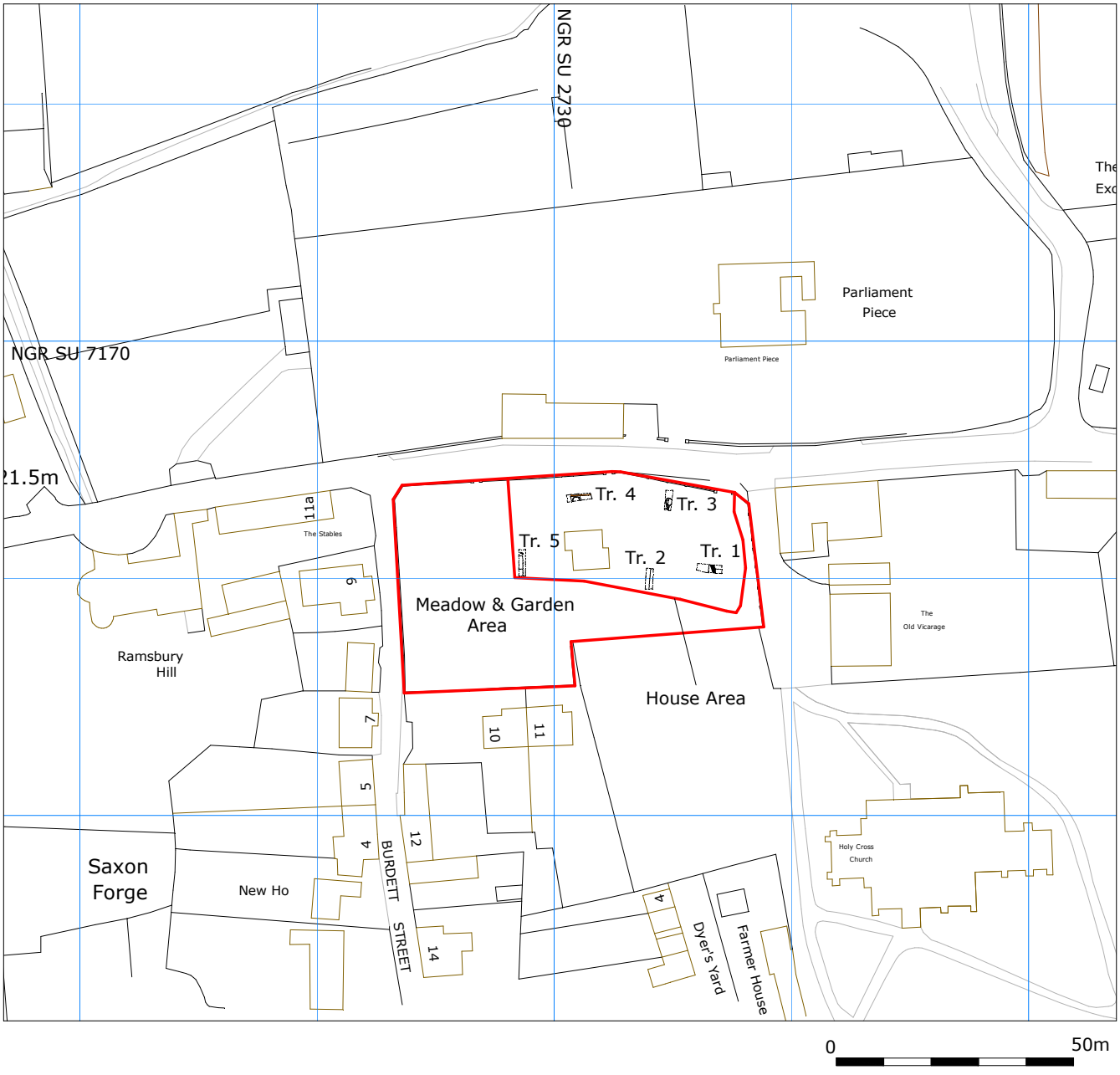
Figure 2

Site Boundary Plan Showing Development Boundaries and Trench Locations



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1 Introduction

1.1 Avon Archaeology Ltd were appointed by Ian and Alison Mills to carry out a programme of Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Back Lane, Ramsbury Wiltshire, centred on NGR SU 27312 71658. The evaluation excavated five 5 x 2m trenches on the site (**Figure 2**).

1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the planning decision making process for an application (reference PL/2022/00916) to construct a new eco home on the site.

1.3 The work was conducted in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (AAL 2021) and the relevant guidelines for archaeological evaluation as issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020).

1.6 An entry detailing the project has been lodged with the OASIS online archaeological database under the reference avonarch2-57185. Similarly an entry for the project will be made within the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (pending). The project archive will be given to the care of the Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, under the accession number DZSWS:17-2021. A request will be made to the landowner to donate the finds to the museum via transfer of title, but they may choose to retain them.

2. Methodology

2.1 The methodology for the evaluation, including the planning context and requirements, was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AAL 2021), which was approved by Wiltshire County Council prior to commencement of fieldwork.

2.2 Trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket onto the first archaeologically significant deposit or feature or natural substrate. Archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand, photographed, and located using a Topcon Hiper SR

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GPS rover. Context numbers were attributed to all stratigraphic units and recorded on AAL's pro-forma record sheets.

3 Site Location, Geology and Topography

3.1 The village of Ramsbury lies 9 km northeast of Marlborough, close to the eastern border of Wiltshire on the north bank of the Kennet River Valley.

3.2 The project site is located on the south side of Back Lane. It is centred on NGR SU 27312 71658 and comprises a total area of approximately 0.25 hectares. The plot is broadly rectangular, its boundary defined by a high brick and flint wall on the north, east and west sides, with three narrow pedestrian wooden gates leading from Back Lane, to the plot.

3.3 Currently the site is largely undeveloped, occupied only by a small, single storey, open ended utility building centrally located, surrounded grass and shrub land.

3.4 Beyond the boundary wall and to the east of the site, are buildings related to Holy Cross Church (The Old Vicarage, Vicarage Cottage, Church Hall), which itself lies just beyond the south east corner of the plot. Extending from the Church and forming the southern boundary is the cemetery and a small row of terraced housing. Burdett Street forms the western boundary.

3.5 Topographically the site is fairly flat. Geophysical survey carried out in 2002 concluded that the site had been levelled to create a platform within the walled garden. Land within the Project Site was recorded to be 1m higher than that of the adjacent churchyard to the south (Payne) and it was concluded that the original landscape would have sloped gently south, from the road (Payne 2003).

3.6 Geologically the site is defined by Seaford Chalk Formation, formed approximately 84 to 90 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. To the

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south of the site, the chalk is overlain by an alluvial deposit of clay, silt, sand and gravel, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2020).

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 A full and detailed archaeological background is presented within the recent Desk-based assessment prepared by Sam Driscoll of HPS (2020). This document should be referred to for a concise background to the site.

4.2 The most salient fact is that the proposed development site is located within the bounds of the Saxon settlement of Ramsbury (WHER MWI19797) and has been cited as the possible location of the Bishop's Residence and grounds (WHER DWI17549).

4.3 The religious centre at Ramsbury was created in AD 909 by the West Saxons. The present Church of Holy Cross is thought to be the location of the Saxon Cathedral. This theory supported by the discovery, during restoration of the building in the 1890s, of carved building stone of 9th/10th century date. The episcopal residence would have been located within the settlement, adjacent to the cathedral. The Bishops residence remained in Ramsbury until the early to mid-12th century, when it was moved to the well documented site at Ramsbury Manor Park approximately 1.5km south-west of the village.

4.4 At the time of the Domesday survey in 1086, Ramsbury was a settlement of some size with 156 households and 90 hides recorded.

4.5 The site itself comprises walled former kitchen gardens which topographical evidence suggests likely served The Rookery, today Parliamentary Piece, a large house which is located opposite the site across Back Lane.

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4.6 The 1884 1st Edition Ordnance Survey covering the site depicts a building against the boundary wall in the rough location of structures identified in Trench 4 (**Figure 5**).

5 Results

5.1 The results are presented below in order of trench number, which reflects the order in which they were excavated. A table of context descriptions can be found at the back of the report (appendix 1). Levels are not given here unless pertinent, but can be found on the trench plans (**Figure 3**). All trenches were 5 x 2m.

Trench 1 (Plates 1 – 3, Figure 3)

5.2 Trench 1 was located toward the south-east site corner and was orientated roughly east to west. It was excavated onto the natural substrate (106), which was found at between 117.87 and 117.95m aOD. It comprised an orange-brown clay forming a matrix around flint brash. The natural substrate was overlain by a 0.12m thick deposit (104) of dark grey-brown silt, which contained occasional flecks of charcoal and natural flint fragments. Cut into deposit (104) was a shallow linear feature [102] filled (103) with a deposit of flinty gravel in a matrix of what appeared to be crushed chalk. It likely reflected a path or garden feature of late post-medieval origin, most likely from the site's period as a kitchen garden. A layer of *c*0.21m thick grey-brown, sandy silt subsoil (101) sealed cut [102]. This was in turn sealed by a *c*0.22m thick layer (100) of dark grey-brown sandy loam topsoil.

Trench 2 (Plates 4 – 6, Figure 3)

5.3 Trench 2 was located midway along the southern edge of the currently proposed new build footprint (**Figure 2**) and was orientated north-south. It was excavated, along its eastern side, onto the natural substrate (203), the western side of the trench forming a step for safe access. Again the natural was flint brash in a matrix of orange-brown clay and was found at a height

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of approximately 118.20m aOD. Above the natural was a layer (203) dark grey-brown clay silt (as seen in Trench 1) containing occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional chunks of chalk. Three sherds of pottery and a flint core were retrieved from the context, reflecting an incoherent range of dates from Mesolithic to Roman, and then medieval; this means that, at the earliest, the deposit is medieval, the other finds being residual. Deposit (203) was sealed by a 0.15m thick layer (202) of crushed limestone with frequent lime inclusions. This likely reflects a localised dump of building material, most likely of late post-medieval origin, again probably dating to the period when the site functioned as a kitchen garden. Deposit (202) was in turn sealed by a *c*0.18m thick layer of grey-brown silty sand subsoil (201), as seen elsewhere on site and above that by 0.25m of topsoil (200).

Trench 3 (Plates 7 – 11, Figures 3 & 4)

5.4 Trench 3 was located toward the northern site boundary wall close to the north-eastern site corner and was orientated north-south. Natural substrate (context 309) was reached at a depth of approximately 0.71m below current ground level. It was composed of flint brash in a matrix of orange-brown clay and at the northern end of the trench sat a 119.38m aOD. Towards the southern end of the trench an area of disturbance was observed. A section was excavated through this disturbance, which revealed a series of three intercutting pits (contexts [303], [305] & [307]). A fourth pit [310] was identified in the south-east corner of the trench, but not excavated. Ceramics recovered from the fill of these pits, combined with the observed stratigraphy, indicate that the pits fall within two phases. Pits [305] and [307] both contained ceramics dating to the 12th – 13th century, while pit [303] had later pottery dating to the 16th century. No pottery was recovered from pit [310]. All pits were sealed by a light greyish brown, silty sand deposit containing crushed lime, CBM and 17th to 18th century ceramics (302). This deposit is likely related to the use of the site as a kitchen garden. This layer was overlain by a subsoil deposit (301) and topsoil (300).

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Trench 4 (Plates 12 – 14, Figure 3)

5.5 Trench 4 was located close to the northern site boundary wall, toward the north-west corner of the proposed new build footprint (**see Figure 2**) and was orientated east to west.

5.6 The natural substrate was encountered at a height of 19.28m aOD and comprised flint brash in an orange-brown clay silt matrix. The natural substrate was cut by a sub-rectangular pit [404] (**Plate 14, Figure 3**) and was sealed by a deposit (406) of mid-brown flint rich clay silt containing occasional lime mortar and charcoal flecks. The latter was consistent with deposits (104) and (203), except that here it produced later finds, including modern window glass. Cut [404] also truncated deposit (406), and was filled by a dark-brown gritty silt containing light rubble, which included stone and red brick fragments, plus more modern window glass. Cut [404] and deposit (406) were sealed by a roughly 0.12m thick layer (403) of late post-medieval rubble, comprising mortar, red brick and stone fragments. The rubble layer appeared to form a bedding platform for a red brick structure [402]. Structure [402] comprised two axes of a brick wall, a small run of north-south orientated wall at its west end and a stretch of east to west orientated wall, parallel with the extant site boundary wall, from which it was roughly 4.5m distant. Only the bottom two foundation courses were present and indicate a single skin wall bonded with white lime mortar. A building is recorded in the rough location of [402] on the 1884 Tithe Map (see discussion below). A possible brick surface [401] was partially revealed to the west of Structure [402] (see foreground of **Plate 13**), although too little was exposed to characterise it with any confidence. Both structure [402] and possible surface [401] were sealed by topsoil (400).

Trench 5 (Plates 15 – 18, Figures 3 & 4)

5.7 Trench 5 was located in the south-west corner of the currently proposed new build footprint (see **Figure 2**), and was orientated north-south. The natural substrate, flint brash in a matrix of orange-brown clay silt (509) was reached in the centre west of the trench. It sloped from a height of approximately 118.80m aOD at the north to 118.18m aOD to the south,

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over a distance of just over 2m. The site itself is flat, but the surrounding topography breaks steeply southward, suggesting it has been levelled. Most likely the slope observed in the natural reflects the natural topography, even so a cut number [503] was attributed. Filling [503], or more likely simply overlying the natural substrate, was a deposit (504) of dark brown clay silt which contained frequent natural flint fragments and occasional charcoal flecks but produced no finds. This deposit had a flat surface, suggesting it was levelled, or imported to level the ground (see **Figure 4**). Sealing deposit (504) and the natural slope or possible cut it filled was a *c*0.40m thick layer (502) of mid brown fine grained silt with occasional charcoal flecks, which produced no finds. The trench was sealed by *c*0.24m of dark brown fine grained silty subsoil (501) and finally by c0.23m of dark brown silty topsoil (500).

5.8 At the northern end of the trench two post holes were identified cut into deposit (502), (contexts [505] and [507] (**Plate 18, Figure 3**). Both were shallow and filled by mid brown, quite loosely compact silt with root disturbance (contexts (504) and (506) respectively). Neither produced any dating evidence.

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6. Finds

Ceramics

By Lorraine Mepham

Introduction

6.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 34 sherds, weighing 461g, and includes material of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date.

6.2 Condition ranges from fair to good; the assemblage is fragmentary, and only one conjoining sherd was noted (on a fresh break), but on the whole the levels of surface and edge abrasion are relatively low. Mean sherd weight overall is 13.6 g.

6.3 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type within each context. Some wares can be correlated with known types (eg Kennet Valley wares) while others can only be ascribed to broad ceramic tradition (eg medieval sandy wares). Note has been made of identifiable forms, as well as the presence of decoration, surface treatment and other salient features. The level of recording accords with the 'basic record' advocated for the purpose of characterising an assemblage rapidly (Barclay *et al* 2016, section 2.4.5). A full breakdown of pottery by context is given in Table 1, and spot-dates by context in Table 2.

Romano-British

6.4 A single sherd is dated as Romano-British; this was a residual find in context 203. This is a rim sherd in a coarse greyware, from an everted rim jar. The greyware is not particularly distinctive and cannot be ascribed to a specific source; potential sources include the extensive Oxfordshire industry to the north, but there is also a minor production centre known at Hamstead Marshall, 15 km to the south-east, probably operating in the 4th century AD (Swan 1984, 133 and microfiche 1.215–6).

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Medieval

6.5 The majority of the assemblage (30 sherds) is of medieval date. Most of this chronological group (22 sherds) is made up of coarsewares in the 'Kennet Valley ware' ceramic tradition. These wares have a widespread distribution across west Berkshire and north-east Wiltshire, extending into south Oxfordshire and north Hampshire; the wide geographic spread suggests more than one production centre. Two kilns have been excavated to the south-west of Newbury (Mepham 2000), and place-name evidence (*Crockerstrope*) suggests another centre may have operated in the Savernake Forest to the south of Marlborough, quite close to Great Bedwyn (Vince 1997, 65). There are two fabric variants, flint-tempered and chalk-/flint-tempered. This assemblage produced mostly chalk-/flint-tempered sherds, with a small proportion of flint-tempered sherds. Only two diagnostic sherds are present: a jar rim and a strap handle from a jug. This is a strictly utilitarian industry with a limited repertoire; glaze was not used, and decorative techniques seen here are restricted to curvilinear combing (two sherds from context 308).

6.6 As well as a wide geographical spread, Kennet Valley wares had a lengthy currency through the medieval period. The flint-tempered variants appeared at least as early as the 11th century; they were augmented and gradually superseded by the chalk-/flint-tempered variants from the late 12th century; the latter continued in use at least to the end of the 14th century, although their *floruit* appears to have been the later 13th and 14th centuries. The ceramic sequence from Newbury, where these wares were first defined as Newbury Groups A and B respectively, suggests that the latter became predominant around the middle of the 13th century (Vince 1997, fig. 26). This suggests that the Ramsbury assemblage dates mostly from the second half of the 13th century, possibly extending into the 14th century, with the possibility of some material which could date as early as the 11th century, but which in fact need not necessarily be pre-conquest.

6.7 Other wares are sparsely represented. These include seven sherds in medium-grained sandy wares, all glazed and all likely to derive from jugs – they include one rod handle. In terms of fabric, these are not particularly

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distinctive, and fall within the group broadly defined in Newbury as Group C wares (Vince 1997), but at least some could originate from an industry based to the north-east of Newbury, of which one production centre is known at Ashampstead, dating to the early 13th century (Mepham and Heaton 1995). One sherd from context 304 has a trace of white slip decoration (a technique used at Ashampstead), while another, from context 406, carries ring-and-dot stamped motifs in a vertical panel on a white-slipped background. White-slipped jugs are found in Newbury in late 13th–14th century contexts (Vince 1997, 54, table 7, fig. 37, 103); there is a good parallel for the Ramsbury sherd from Newbury (Hawkes 1997, fig. 67, 110).

6.8 There is one other sherd, from context 203, in a coarse sandy/calcareous fabric, with a trace of external glaze. Again, this is not particularly distinctive and the source is uncertain, but it may be noted that various calcareous (limestone-tempered) wares are common across north Wiltshire.

Post-medieval

6.9 The remaining three sherds are post-medieval. All are redwares, of which one (context 405) is a 19th-century white-slipped ware, probably from a kitchen bowl. The other two are both glazed internally, one with trailed slip decoration under a glaze with green mottling. The latter can be dated on the basis of the slip decoration to the 17th or 18th century. Redwares, including slipwares, were made at Inkpen, where production is thought to have taken place between the 16th and early 20th centuries (information from West Berkshire Museum).

6.10 Sherds came from 302, 304 and 405 and in these contexts provide the latest dating evidence.

Ceramic Building Material

6.11 Three fragments of ceramic building material were included with the pottery. Two fragments from context 405 are from flat (peg) roof tiles, one of medieval date and the other more broadly dated as late medieval/post-

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medieval. A small surface flake from context 406 is of uncertain type and date.

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Lithics

By Abigail George

6.12 Three worked flint items were recovered from three separate contexts, (203), (306) and (308). In all cases the flint items were residual. The following is the result of rapid assessment on site and examination of photographs, more detailed and controlled study would allow for more accurate characterisation.

Blade core. Context (203). Weight 56g

6.13 The flint is of a very good quality, but not pristine. There have been several blade removals from a well prepared platform. Strike is quite hard, with pronounced ripples, single direction. There is no patination and the edges are still sharp so the core has not moved too far from its original location. Date Mesolithic/Early Neolithic.

Blade. Context (306). Weight <1g

6.14 The quality of the flint is not ideal with some inclusions and unpredictable fracture, very slight patination. This piece is a waste blade from core preparation. However, it does seem to have been retouched with a notch on the left lateral edge towards the distal end. The blade is snapped. Date: probably Mesolithic.

Flake. Context (308). Weight 20g

6.15 Good quality flint, unpatinated and the edges are still sharp. From the shape it's tempting to say that this is a preform for an arrowhead, however I can't see from the photos a striking platform, bulb or ripples, or any other clues. Nothing particularly diagnostic to date – it could just be a waste flake.

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Animal Bone

By Joss Davis

Introduction

6.16 This report summarises the results of an examination of the hand-collected animal bones from an archaeological evaluation at **Ramsbury**. The assemblage comprises 8 fragments of animal bone, weighing a total of 130g. Bone preservation is generally good, but highly fragmented, and as a result only *c*. 12% of the assemable (a single fragment) could be identified to skeletal element and species (**Table 1**).

Methodology

6.17 The assemblage was assessed by rapid scanning and bone elements/fragments from each context were identified to taxa using the author's modern comparative osteological collections and with reference to published works (Hillson 1996, Schmid 1972 and Getty 1975). Fragments that could not be identified to species level were classified as 'large mammal' (cattle, horse), 'medium mammal' (sheep, pig, dog) or 'small mammal' (rabbit etc.). The assemblage was then quantified in terms of the number of identified specimens present (NISP; **Table 2**).

Context number	Skeletal Element	Side	Species	Frags	Comments	Weight (g)
302	Skull	-	Large mammal	3	Fragments	60
304	Metatarsal	U	Bos	1	Diaphysis with partial proximal epiphysis	52
304	Scapula	U	Medium mammal	1	Fragment	
405	Long bone	U	Large mammal	2	Fragments	12
406	Metapodial	U	Medium mammal	1	Diaphysis only	6

Table 1: Animal bone species/anatomical representation

Results

6.18 Animal bone was recovered from four contexts within two trenches. Table 1 provides a summary of the identified bone by context. The sole identified fragment was from a cow, with the majority of the other fragments belonging to large mammals. Two fragments were from medium-sized

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mammals, possibly sheep. The assemblage is relatively well preserved but includes only eight fragments, just one of which could be identified to species, and this limits its potential for further more detailed analysis. It has been recorded to a sufficient level of detail for the archive, but in and of itself it adds little to our understanding of the site.

Species	NISP
Bos (Cattle)	1
Total identified	**1**
Large mammal	5
Medium mammal	2
Total unidentified	**7**
Overall total	**8**

Table 2: number of identified specimens present (NISP)

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7. Discussion

7.1 The evaluation found little evidence for stratified buried archaeology with the exception of Trench 3. Trenches 1 and 2 were essentially absent of archaeology beyond displaying a background of residual finds from a range of dates, including prehistoric periods. Trench 4 identified the remains of a brick structure parallel with the extant boundary wall to the north of the site. The 1884 1st Edition Ordnance Survey covering the site (**Figure 5**) depicts a building in the area and it is probable that the brick foundations recorded in the trench reflect remnants of that structure, and of 19th century date. Trench 5 did contain two post holes but their stratigraphic position and the loose nature of the fills suggest (although no dating evidence was found) that they are of late post medieval origin (19th or even 20th century). It also displayed a sharp southerly slope in the natural substrate, which whilst it cannot be ruled out is the product of a cut, likely reflects the natural topography of the area, which can be seen, beyond the site, to drop away southward. This is in itself instructive, as it suggests that the site has been levelled, most likely to accommodate the walled kitchen gardens which occupied it in the 19th century. Generally speaking the depositional sequences encountered across the site were similar. However, those in Trench 5 were somewhat distinct, displaying thicker and siltier deposits, which could imply that the western side of the site was subject to infilling as part of site levelling.

7.2 Trench 3 contained stratified archaeology, in the form of four intercutting pits, which appear to be of medieval origin, ceramics suggesting dates ranging from the 12th to 16th centuries. The density of finds within the pits was low, suggesting they do not reflect domestic waste pits, more likely agricultural activity, although their purpose is unclear. The intercutting nature of the pits and date range of finds within them respectively, indicate a sustained period of activity throughout the medieval period. However, it is clear that the activity was localised, no features being found in the other trenches.

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7.3 In conclusion the evaluation has found evidence for buried archaeology in an area toward the north-east corner of the site but must conclude that, in the main, the archaeological potential is overall low. Residual finds, in particular lithics of probable Mesolithic and Neolithic origin, do however raise the potential that the wider area, if not the site itself, may have sustained prehistoric activity, if not indeed settlement. The evaluation does indicate a need for substantial further investigation, but a watching brief may be beneficial to ensure that any further buried archaeology in the area of Trench 3 is recorded.

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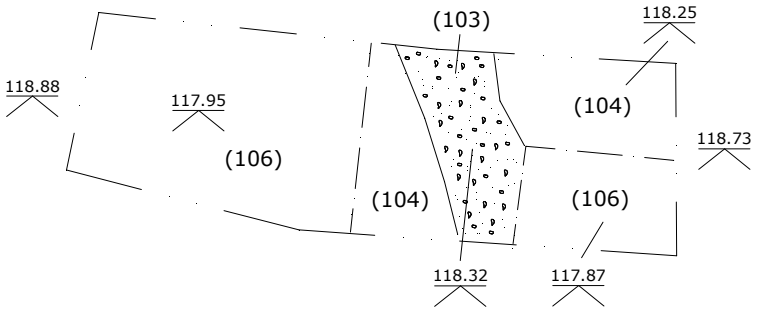
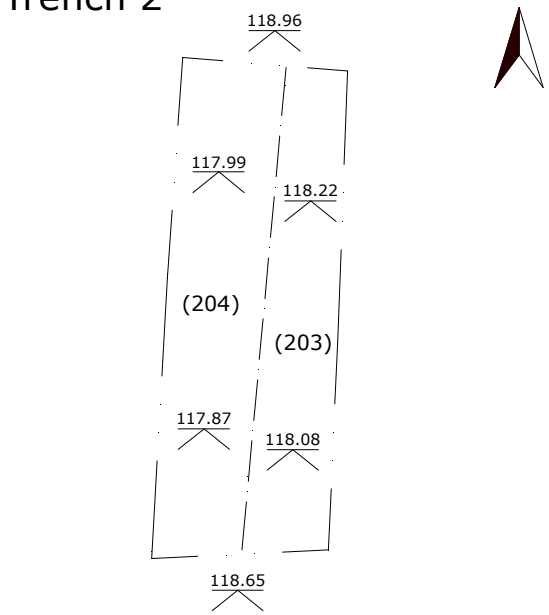
Figure 3

Trench Plans

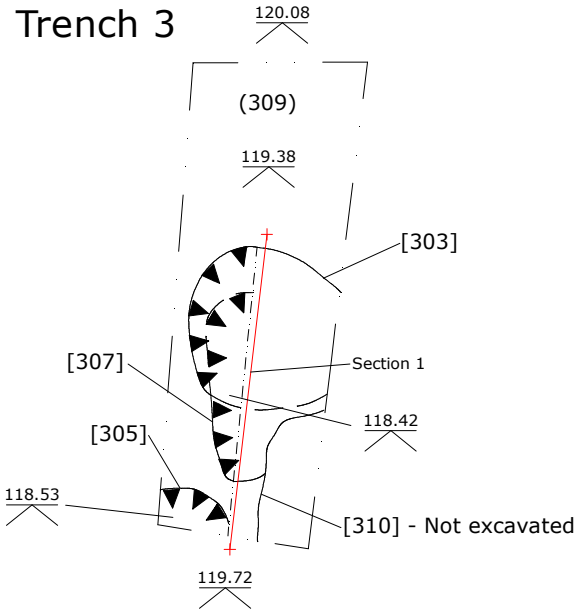
Trench 1



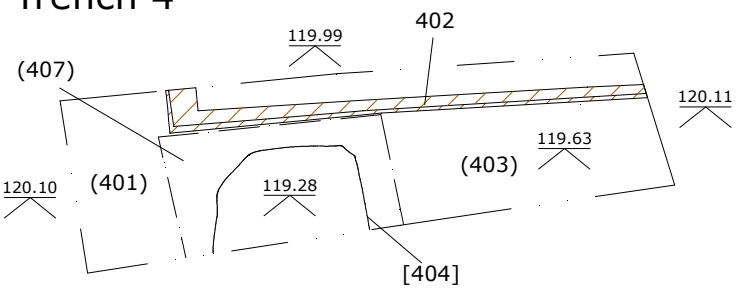
Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 4



Trench 5

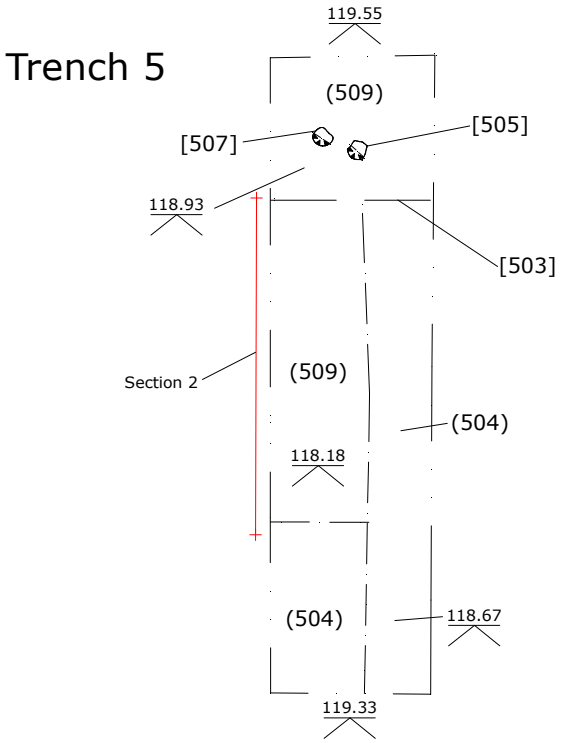




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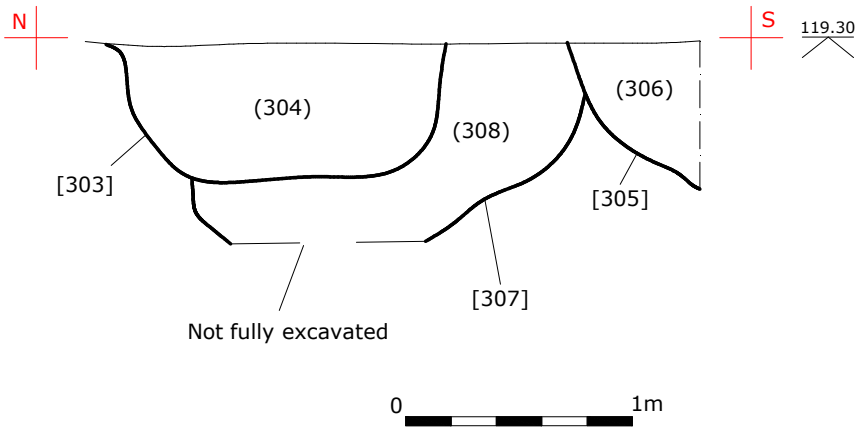
Figure 4

Selected Section Drawings

Section 1



Section 2

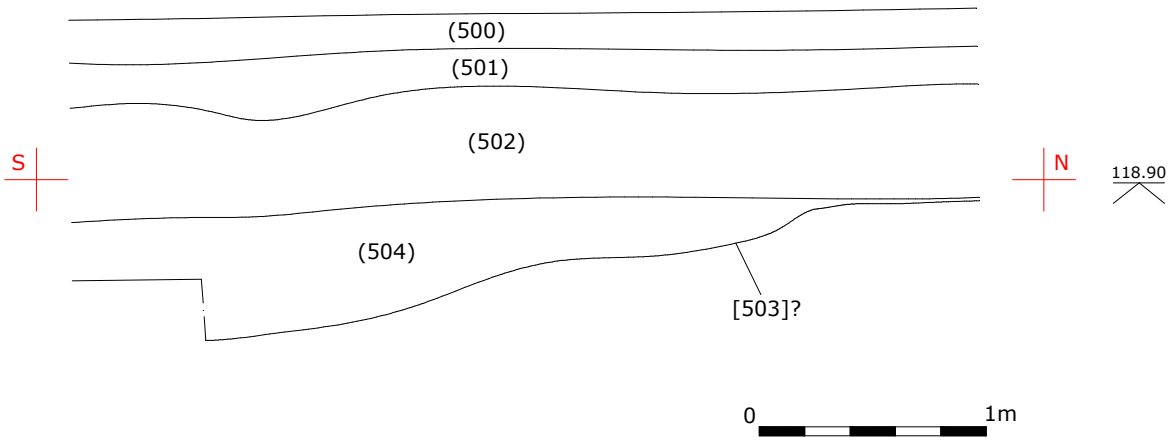


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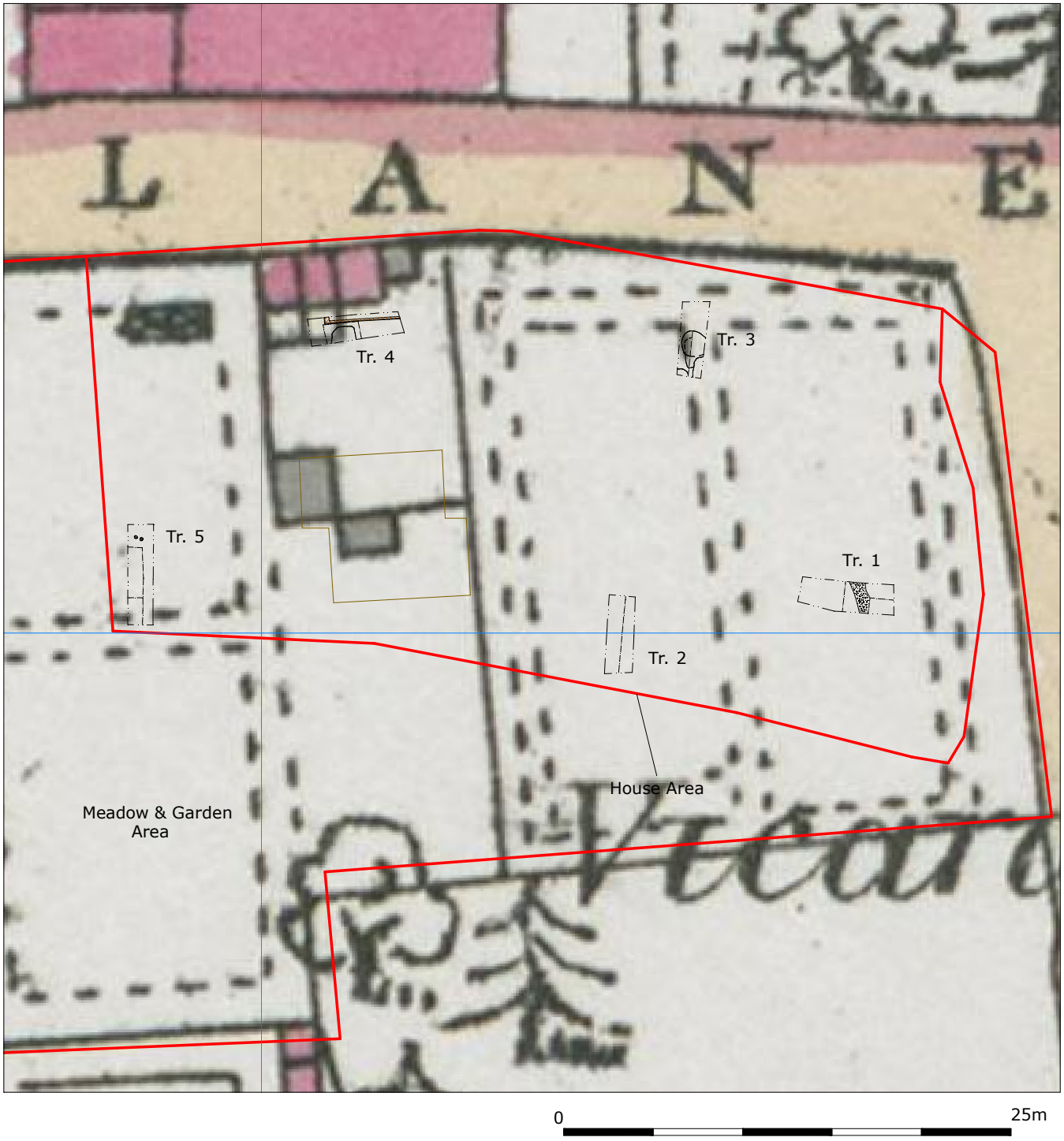
Figure 5

Site Plan Overlain onto an Extract from the 25" OS map Surveyed 1884, Published 1886 (Wiltshire Sheet XXX.5)



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Plates



Plate 1. Looking south-east at Trench 1



Plate 2. Looking north-west at Trench 1



Plate 3. Looking south at Trench 1 section



Plate 4. Looking north-west at Trench 2



Plate 5. Looking south-east at Trench 2

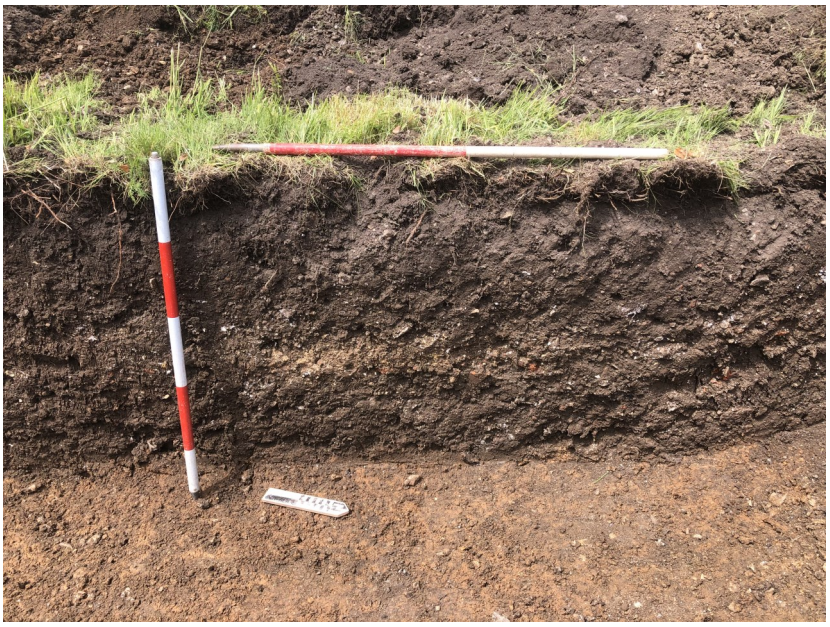

Plate 6. View of Trench 2 section looking west



Plate 7. Trench 3 looking north (pre excavation)



Plate 8. Trench 3 looking south (pre excavation)



Plate 9. Looking west at Cuts [303], [305] & [307]



Plate 10. Looking west at section into Cut s [303] & [307] (composite image)



Plate 11. View of Cut [305], looking south



Plate 12. Looking west at Trench 4



Plate 13. Looking east at Trench 4



Plate 14. Detail of box section in centre of Trench 4, featuring Cut [404]. Looking south



Plate 15. Looking south-west at Trench 5



Plate 16. Looking north-east at Trench 5



Plate 17. View of east facing trench section of Trench 5



Plate 18. Looking north-east at post-holes [505] & [507] in section

APPENDIX 1

Context Tables

Trench 1				
Notes	Dimensions; 29.5m x 1.9m, depth to the top of natural: 0.92m max Orientation: East - West.			
Context	**Type**	**Description/Interpretation**	**Dimensions**	**Date**
100	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy loam, soft.	T=0.22m	-
101	Subsoil	Mid grey brown, sandy silt, firm.	T=0.21m	-
102	Cut	NW – SE aligned linear shallow cut or compression in natural. Probably related to garden path (see 103 below)	L=1.9m+, W=0.9m, D=0.08m	PM/MOD
103	Fill	Mixture of flint and crushed chalk in a matrix of mid orange brown clay. Compact. Fill of [102]. Probably a garden path related to the use of the site as kitchen gardens.	As 102	PM/MOD
104	Deposit	Light greyish brown, sandy silt, soft. Occasional flecks of chalk, flint and charcoal. Possible buried soil horizon pre-dating the kitchen gardens. Overlies (105)	T=0.12m	UD
105	Deposit	Dark brownish grey, clay silt, soft. Moderate flint and occasional charcoal. Possible buried soil horizon pre-dating the kitchen gardens.	T=0.2m	UD
106	Natural substrate	Orange brown clay with frequent flint inclusions.	-	-

Trench 2				
Notes	Dimensions; 4.8m x 1.9m, depth to the top of natural: 0.78m max Orientation: North - South			
Context	**Type**	**Description/Interpretation**	**Dimensions**	**Date**
200	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy loam, soft.	T=0.22m	-
201	Subsoil	Mid grey brown, sandy silt, firm.	T=0.21m	-
202	Deposit	Mixed layer of crushed limestone, CBM fragments and lime fragments in a dark grey sandy loam. Becomes thinner to the southern end of the trench. Probably related to use of the area as a kitchen garden	T=0.15m	PM/MOD
203	Deposit	Dark brownish grey, clay silt, soft. Occasional chalk fragments, occasional charcoal. Possible buried soil horizon pre-dating the kitchen gardens.	T=0.3m	M
204	Natural substrate	Orange brown clay with frequent flint inclusions.	-	-

Notes	Dimensions; 4.8m x 1.9m, depth to the top of natural: 0.71m max Orientation: North - South			
Context	**Type**	**Description/Interpretation**	**Dimensions**	**Date**
300	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy loam, soft.	T=0.15m	-
301	Subsoil	Mid grey brown, sandy silt, firm.	T=0.20m	-

302	Deposit	Light greyish brown, silty sand, firm. Moderate crushed lime and CBM. Occasional charcoal. Possible levelling layer related to the kitchen garden.	T=0.25	PM/MOD
303	Cut	Sub-circular pit. Steep sides, flattish base. Sharp break of slope to top, moderate break of slope to base. Extends out of trench to the east. Cuts pit [307]. Cut of pit, unknown function.	Dia=1.35m D=0.6m	PM
304	Fill	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, firm. Moderate angular flint and charcoal. Fill of [303]	T=0.6m	PM
305	Cut	Probably sub-circular in plan (extends out of trench to the south and west). Steep sides, flattish base. Sharp break of slope to top, moderate break of slope to base. Cuts pit [307], unclear relationship with pit [310]. Cut of pit, unknown function.	Dia= 0.6m+ D= 0.8m	M
306	Fill	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, firm. Moderate angular flint, occasional charcoal. Fill of pit [305].	T=0.8m	M
307	Cut	Sub-circular in plan. Steep sides. Base not reached due to depth. Sharp break of slope to top. Cut by pits [303] and [305]. Also probably cut by [310]. Cut of pit, unknown function.	Dia=1.5m D=0.8m+	M
308	Fill	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, firm. Frequent patches of buff/orange clay. Frequent angular flint. Occasional charcoal. Fill of pit [307].	T=0.8m+	M
309	Natural substrate	Orange brown clay with frequent flint inclusions.	-	-
310	Cut	Sub circular or rectangular in plan (extends out of trench to east and south). Not excavated. Appears to cut pit [307], unclear relationship with [305]. Cut of probable pit – probable medieval / post-medieval date.	L=1.2m+ W=0.45m+ D=not ex	UD
311	Fill	Dark brownish grey, silty clay, firm. Fill of pit [310]. Not excavated.	As [310]	UD

Trench 4				
Notes	Dimensions; 5.2m x 1.8m, depth to the top of natural: 0.74m max Orientation: East - West			
Context	**Type**	**Description/Interpretation**	**Dimensions**	**Date**
400	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy loam, soft.	T=0.12m	-
401	Deposit	Crushed brick in a matric of dark brown clay. Possible bedding for a surface.	T=0.2m	-
402	Structure	East to west aligned brick wall, with return aligned north to south at the western end. Single brick width with stretcher bond. Header bonded footings below. Patches of white lime mortar.	L=4.15m+ W=0.2m H=0.2m	PM/MOD

403	Deposit	Mid brown sandy clay with frequent rubble and CBM. Levelling layer for overlying structure 402.	T=0.12m	PM/MOD
404	Cut	Sub circular in plan (extends out of trench to the south). Not excavated due to depth. Cuts deposit (406). Probable pit of unknown function.	Dia=1.3m D=not ex	PM/MOD
405	Fill	Dark brown, sandy silt, firm. Occasional crushed brick and charcoal. Fill of pit [404]. Not excavated.	As [404]	PM/MOD
406	Deposit	Mid brown, clay silt, firm. Frequent flint. Occasional crushed lime and charcoal.	T=0.35m	PM/MOD
407	Natural substrate	Orange clay and flint brash	-	-

Trench 5				
Notes	Dimensions; 5.6m x 1.75m, depth to the top of natural: 0.9m max Orientation: North - South			
Context	**Type**	**Description/Interpretation**	**Dimensions**	**Date**
500	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy loam, soft.	T=0.23m	-
501	Subsoil	Mid grey brown, sandy silt, firm.	T=0.24m	-
502	Deposit	Mid orange brown, sandy silt, firm. Occasional charcoal. Possible buried soil horizon pre-dating the kitchen gardens.	T=0.22m	UD
503	Cut	East –west aligned cut (only northern edge seen in trench). Gradual slope. Possible cut of ditch – although more likely just the natural slope of the hill.	L=1.75m+ W=4.34m D=0.35m	UD
504	Fill	Dark grey brown clay silt, firm. Frequent flint fragments. Occasional charcoal. Possible fill of [503] or remnants of buried soil horizon pre-dating the kitchen gardens.	As 503	UD
505	Cut	Sub-circular in plan, steep sides, flattish base. Sharp break of slope to the top and base. Cut of post-hole.	Dia=0.17m D=0.11m	UD
506	Fill	Mid grey brown, organic silt. Some root activity. Fill of [505]	As [505]	UD
507	Cut	Sub-circular in plan, steep sides, flattish base. Sharp break of slope to the top and base. Cut of post-hole.	Dia=0.16m D=0.1m	UD
508	Fill	Mid grey brown, organic silt. Some root activity. Fill of [505]	As [507]	UD
509	Natural substrate	Orange clay and flint brash	-	-

Appendix 2 Finds Tables

Flint

Cxt	Description	Wt	No	Dimensions	Date
203	Blade core. Good quality flint, several blades removed from a well prepared striking platform	56g	1	48.2mm x 46.8mm x 29.3mm	Mesolithic - Neolithic
306	Blade. Moderate quality flint. Waste blade from core preparation.	<1g	1	40.1mm x 15.3mm x 5.6mm	Mesolithic?
308	Flake. Good quality flint. Possibly a preform for an arrowhead or a waste flake.	20g	1	51.4mm x 42.1mm x 9.8mm	Mesolithic?
Total		77g	3		

Metal Objects

Cxt	Material	Description	Wt	Dimensions	Date
308	Fe	Corroded iron object. One end broken. Rectangular cross section. Tapered rectangular shape. Possible fragment of handle or fitting.	8g	43.7mm x 17.0mm x 8.5mm	Medieval
406	Fe	Corroded iron object. Sub rectangular profile. Probable iron nail or wire fragment	<1g	66.0mm x 9.1mm x 4.6mm	Post-medieval / modern
Total			9g		

Glass Objects

Cxt	Description	Wt	No	Date
406	Three fragments of plate glass. Thickness varies between 3.45mm and 2.2mm. No air bubbles visible and uniform profile	14g	3	Post-medieval / modern
Total		77g	3	