

Land South-West of Yatton Keynell Wiltshire

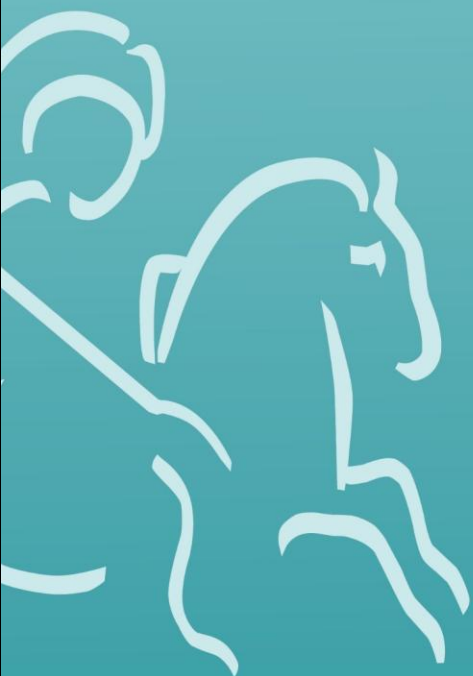
Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Cotswold Homes

CA Project: CR2044
CA Report: CR2044_1
Chippenham Museum Accession No.: TBC

December 2025



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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land to the South-West of Yatton Keynell
Location:	Yatton Keynell, Wiltshire
NGR:	386588 175889
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	20 October - 3 November 2025
Planning reference:	Wiltshire Council planning ref: PL/2025/03672
Location of archive:	To be deposited with Chippenham Museum
Accession number:	TBC
Site code:	YKN25

Between October and November 2025, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the south-west of Yatton Keynell, Wiltshire. A total of 37 trenches were excavated.

The ploughed out remains of medieval/post-medieval furrows were identified cutting the subsoil in three trenches excavated in the north-western part of the site.

A number of levelling deposits, one of which contained artefactual material of a 19th-century date, were identified in four trenches excavated in the south-western part of the site.

Three large undated pits, most likely relating to quarrying activity, were identified in a trench excavated in the south-western part of the site.

An undated ditch, most probably relating to agricultural land management, drainage or division, was identified in a trench excavated in the eastern part of the site.

Two probable ponds were identified in two trenches excavated in the southern part of the site. Neither pond is shown on available historic mapping, however a further pond is shown immediately to the west of the current site on the 1841 Tithe Map for the parish of Yatton Keynell.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In October and November 2025, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the south-west of Yatton Keynell, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 386588 175889; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for by Cotswold Homes, through the agency of Pegasus Planning Group Ltd (PPG).
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application for the residential development of the site, which has been made to by Wiltshire Council (WC; planning ref: PL/2025/03672).
- 1.3. The scope of the evaluation was defined by Tim Havard, Assistant County Archaeologist, WC, during consultation with PPG. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2025) and approved by Mr Havard.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also undertaken in line with:
- *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2023);
 - *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2023);
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015); and
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The proposed development site is approximately 4.2ha in extent and lies on the south-eastern side of Biddestone Lane, on the south-western outskirts of Yatton Keynell. The site currently comprises parts of two agricultural fields, which are bounded to the north-east by public open space, and to the south-west and south-east by further fields. The site lies at approximately 121m AOD, and slopes gently upwards to the north-east.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as mudstone of the Forest Marble Formation, which formed in the Jurassic period (BGS 2025). No superficial deposits are recorded (ibid.). The natural substrate, comprising mixed clays and limestone brash, was identified in all of the excavated trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site has previously been subject to Desk-Based Archaeology and Built Heritage Assessment (PPG 2025) and geophysical survey (SUMO 2025). The following is a summary of these reports, along with further information pertinent to the site, including information gathered from the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 2.2. Limited evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity is recorded in the vicinity of the site. A findspot of an Iron Age coin is recorded 480m to the north of the site, and an Iron Age to Roman enclosure is noted c. 580m to the east of the site (HER ref: MW174115). Roman pottery has also been recovered 770m to the east of the site (HER ref: MW12084).
- 2.3. The site lies close to the boundary of the medieval settlement of Yatton Keynell (HER ref: MWI2094), which also encloses the historic core of the village to the north. Approximately 1km to the south-west, West Yatton is also recorded as a medieval settlement (HER ref: MWI2103). A series of medieval lynchets (HER ref: MWI2117) are recorded to the north-west of the site, with the closest being c. 670m from the site.
- 2.4. Numerous post-medieval to modern sites are recorded in the vicinity of the site, including a number of farmsteads and outfarms. These include Manor House Farm (HER ref: MW165916), c. 330m to the north-west of the site, and West Barn Farm (HER ref: MW165915), c. 700m to the south-west. Many of the remaining records lie within the developed area of Yatton Keynell and its associated Conservation Area, to the north.

Geophysical Survey

- 2.5. A magnetometer survey conducted on the site (SUMO 2025) did not identify any anomalies of definite archaeological interest, apart from trends relating to former ridge and furrow cultivation. A former field boundary was mapped in the north-eastern part of the site (correlating to a boundary depicted on the 1841 Tithe Map for the parish of Yatton Keynell and subsequent editions of Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping until the mid 20th-century), along with numerous anomalies of uncertain origin; these could relate to archaeological features but are more probably agricultural or natural in derivation. Areas of natural magnetic variation and modern ferrous anomalies were also identified.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Wiltshire Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2025).
- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to investigate anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey (SUMO 2025).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 37 trenches, each measuring 25m in length by 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on attached plan (Fig. 2).
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.
- 4.3. During the course of the evaluation, Trenches 24 and 26 were relocated due to the identification of a previously unknown buried service, with the approval of Mr Havard.
- 4.4. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate.
- 4.5. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.6. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential and a single sample was taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
- 4.7. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

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- 4.8. CA will make arrangements with Chippenham Museum (accession number: TBC) for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection.
- 4.9. A digital archive will be also be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). This archive will be compiled in accordance with the ADS *Instructions for Depositors* (2022).
- 4.10. The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with:
- *Guidelines for essential archive tasks and the preparation of archives* (CA 2024);
 - *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020); and
 - *Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe: EAC Guidelines 1* (Europae Archaeologia Consilium 2019).
- 4.11. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B. Details of the environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are given in Section 7 and Appendix C.
- 5.2. The natural geological substrate, comprising mixed clays and limestone brash, was identified in all of the excavated trenches at typical depths of between 0.12m and 0.44m below present ground level (bpgl); a variation to this was recorded in Trench 2, where the natural was recorded at 0.82m depth.
- 5.3. Colluvial deposits, measuring up to 0.15m in thickness, were identified overlying the natural substrate in Trenches 4, 5, 7 and 8. Buried topsoil and levelling deposits, measuring up to 1.1m in thickness, were identified overlying the natural substrate in Trenches 1-3 (see Figs 3-5; Section CC), and the colluvium in Trench 8. Two fragments of post-medieval/modern glass, a single fragment of ceramic building

material (CBM), and part of a leather shoe, of 19th-century date, were recovered from levelling deposit 803, identified in Trench 8. The identified colluvial and levelling deposits all broadly correlated to a series of anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey, which were categorised as being of 'uncertain origin'.

- 5.4. Subsoil, measuring an average of 0.14m in thickness, was recorded overlying the natural substrate in Trenches 6, 9-12, 14-20, 22, 23 and 28-37, and colluvial deposit 503, identified in Trench 5. The natural substrate, and the subsoil, colluvium and levelling deposits (where present), were overlain by between 0.12m and 0.44m of topsoil. A shard of glass of post-medieval/modern date and a sherd of pottery of mid 16th to 19th-century date were recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1 and 30, respectively.
- 5.5. Medieval/post-medieval furrows, correlating to a number of linear trends identified by the proceeding geophysical survey, were identified cutting the subsoil in Trenches 20, 34 and 36.
- 5.6. In Trenches 15, 22 and 23 a number of irregular pit-like features were identified. However, subsequent excavation revealed that these features were ephemeral in nature and had highly diffuse edges. Therefore they were interpreted as tree-throw pits.
- 5.7. Archaeological features were identified in Trenches 1, 7, 10, 11 and 25.

Trench 1 (Figs 2-4)

- 5.8. Quarry pit 102 (Fig. 3, Section AA) was identified cutting the natural substrate in the central part of Trench 1. It measured 2.9m in length, more than 1m in width and 0.24m in depth, had irregular sides and an irregular base, and contained a single undated fill, 103. It was not identified by the preceding geophysical survey.
- 5.9. Quarry pit 105 (Fig. 4, Section BB) was partially exposed cutting the natural substrate in the south-western part of the trench. It measured 4.12m in length, more than 0.7m in width and 0.37m in depth, had a moderately sloping north-eastern side and a generally flat base, and contained two undated fills, 106 and 107. The earliest of these fills, 106, was cut by partially exposed quarry pit 108, which measured at least 3.1m in length, 0.7m in width and 0.77m in depth, had a moderately sloping north-eastern side and generally flat base, and contained a series of four undated fills, 109-

112. Both quarry pits correlated to parts of a discrete irregular anomaly of uncertain origin identified by the preceding geophysical survey.

- 5.10. The latest fills of quarry pits 102 and 108 were sealed by levelling layer 104, which was present throughout Trench 1 and measured 0.11m in thickness. A total of 10 sherds of pottery of post-medieval/modern (mid 16th to 20th-century) date, a single fragment of ceramic building material (CBM) of post-medieval/modern date, a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem of late 16th to 19th-century date and three shards of glass of post-medieval/modern date were recovered from this layer.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 and 6)

- 5.11. Sub-oval pit 704 (Fig. 6, Section DD), was identified cutting colluvial layer 701 in the central part of Trench 7. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base, measured 1.8m in length, 1.6m in width, and 0.14m in depth and contained a single stony fill, 705, which remained undated. It was not identified by the preceding geophysical survey. Environmental Sample 1, recovered from fill 705, yielded abundant charcoal fragments, a single instance of plant remains, small fragments of burnt bone, frequent iron fragments, and a single piece of coal.

Trenches 10 and 11 (Figs 2 and 7)

- 5.12. Ponds 1004 (Fig. 7, Section EE) and 1103 were partially exposed in the north-eastern and south-western halves of Trenches 10 and 11 respectively. Neither feature is shown on available historic mapping or was clearly identified by the preceding geophysical survey, although both correlate to parts of an area of natural variation identified by this survey. Pond 1004 contained a single exposed fill, 1003, which remained undated whilst pond 1103 contained a series of three exposed fills, 1104-1106, all of which remained undated. The latest fills of these features, 1003 and 1106 respectively, were sealed by subsoil.

Trench 25 (Figs 2 and 8)

- 5.13. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 2502 (Fig. 8, Section FF) was identified in the central part of Trench 25.
- 5.14. It measured 0.66m in width and 0.17m in depth, had moderately sloping sides and a flat base, and contained a single undated fill, 2503. It correlated closely to a linear anomaly of uncertain origin identified by the preceding geophysical survey. A further linear trend of uncertain origin, identified to the south-east, was not identified in the excavated trench.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material consisting of pottery, ceramic building material, glass, leather and clay tobacco pipe was recovered by hand from four different deposits. Recording of this material was undertaken directly to an Excel spreadsheet, from which Appendix B, Table 1 is taken. The artefacts have been recorded by deposit and fragment/item count, weight, type and morphological characteristics according to each find category. The recording undertaken is in accordance with the *CIfA finds Toolkit* (CIfA 2021). The leather fragment is currently stored in wet and cold conditions.

Pottery

- 6.2. A total of 11 sherds of pottery, weighing 129g, was recovered from levelling layer 104 and topsoil 3000, identified in Trenches 1 and 30 respectively. The assemblage is well broken-up. Fabric codes used for recording are defined in Appendix B, Table 1. A total of four sherds of pottery (74g) were recorded in glazed red earthenwares (GRE) of broadly mid 16th to 18th-century date. The remainder of the pottery dates from the late 18th century onwards and consists of small quantities of sherds in refined whitewares types (RWW; TPWW, 3 sherds, 20g), creamware (CW, 1 sherd, 4g) and Late English stonewares (LES, 3 sherds, 31g).

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.3. Two fragments of CBM were recorded in hard fired, orange sandy fabrics typical of post-medieval/modern material. The fragment from levelling layer 104 features retains no features indicative of function. The fragment from levelling layer 803, identified in Trench 8, is from a curved tile, possibly a pantile of modern date.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 6.4. A single plain stem fragment (3g) of clay tobacco pipe, of broad late 16th to 19th-century date, was recorded from levelling layer 104.

Leather

- 6.5. A single fragment (6g) of leather was recovered from levelling layer 803. It features five copper alloy eyelets, which suggests that this is a fragment from a shoe eyestay dating from the 19th-century onwards.

Glass

- 6.6. A total of five glass vessel fragments of post-medieval or modern date were recovered from topsoil 100, levelling layer 104 and levelling layer 803. These consist

of bottle fragments of light blue and brown glass, and a fragment from a vessel of uncertain type in green glass. A colourless window glass fragment was recorded from levelling layer 104.

Further work and selection strategy

- 6.7. The finds have been recorded to the appropriate standard and no further work is required. The finds are all recommended for de-selection. Should further fieldwork be undertaken at the site, this material should be integrated in any additional reporting.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Plant macrofossils

- 7.1. A single environmental bulk sample (40 litres of soil) was processed from the site. It was taken from pit 704, Trench 7. The sample was taken to evaluate the preservation and range of palaeoenvironmental remains, and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The sample was processed by standard flotation and wet sieving procedures (*CA Technical Manual No. 2*).
- 7.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1, Appendix C, following the nomenclature of Stace (2021) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals.
- 7.3. The volume of the flot was 60ml with 60% rooty material and modern cereal chaff. The level of rooty material in assemblages can be an indication of the potential risk of post depositional movement within these deposits.

Trench 7

- 7.4. Fill 705 (Sample 1) was the single fill of pit 704, and was rich in charcoal. Much of the charcoal was less than 4mm and more than 2mm in all dimensions: it was not possible to discern any identifiable features at low magnification. The only other potentially identifiable plant remain was a single nutlet, which appeared to be of a possible Clary type (cf. *Salvia* sp.). A few small fragments of burnt bone were recovered, with frequent iron fragments and a single small piece of coal. No other eco/artefacts were present.

Summary

- 7.5. The presence of charcoal in undated pit 704 suggests that some kind of industrial or domestic activity was occurring in the immediate vicinity of the feature. Some of the fragments might be suitable for species identification and C14 dating. The nutlet of possible clary is from a genus of plants found in a range of grassland, woodland and coastal habitats. These remains highlight the potential for other charred plant remains to be found in the wider area.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. The evaluation identified a small number of archaeological features in trenches excavated in the south-western and eastern parts of the site. No archaeological features of archaeological interest, excepting the ploughed out remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow agriculture, were identified in trenches excavated in the remainder of the site. Where identified, there was a moderate correlation with the results of the preceding geophysical survey (SUMO 2025).
- 8.2. A number of colluvial deposits and levelling layers were identified in Trenches 1-8, excavated in the south-western part of the site. Whilst these deposits were not specifically identified by the preceding geophysical survey, there was a good correlation between these deposits and an area of linear and discrete anomalies of an uncertain origin identified by this survey. However, a number of similar anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey in the north-eastern part of the site (as targeted by Trenches 27 and 29-31), were not identified during the current evaluation.
- 8.3. The ploughed out remains of medieval/post-medieval furrows were identified cutting the subsoil in Trenches 20, 34 and 36, excavated in the north-western part of the site. No further furrows were identified during the current evaluation, although the preceding geophysical survey identified trends relating to the presence of ridge and furrow agriculture across the site. The presence of these features suggest that at least parts of the site formed part of the medieval agricultural hinterland of the nearby settlements of Yatton Keynell or West Yatton (see *Archaeological Background*, above) during the medieval period.
- 8.4. A number of levelling deposits (104, 201, 303 and 803) were identified in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 8, respectively, excavated in the south-western part of the site. Two fragments of post-medieval/modern glass, a single fragment of ceramic building material (CBM), and part of a leather shoe, of 19th-century date, were recovered from

levelling deposit 803, identified in Trench 8, and it is possible that the remaining levelling deposits identified in this part of the site are at least broadly contemporary.

- 8.5. Large undated pits 102, 105 and 108, recorded in Trench 1, excavated in the south-west part of the site, appear most likely to relate to quarrying activity due to their size and character. Although they remained undated, a quarry is shown approximately 300m to the north-west of the current site on the 1886 First Edition OS map and it remains possible that pits 102, 105 and 108 represent a continuation of this activity to the south-east, albeit in a much reduced form.
- 8.6. The function of undated ditch 2502, identified in Trench 25, excavated in the eastern part of the site, remains unclear as it does not correlate to any field boundary shown on available historic mapping. However, the lack of artefactual or faunal material from its fill suggest that it is set away from any focus of settlement and is most likely therefore to related to agricultural land management, drainage or division.
- 8.7. Undated ponds 1003 and 1103, identified in Trenches 10 and 11, respectively, excavated in the southern part of the site, are not depicted on available historic mapping; however, a pond is shown immediately to the west of the current site on the 1841 Tithe Map for the parish of Yatton Keynell and a further pond is shown within the site itself on the 1886 First Edition OS map suggesting that these features may be of a broadly comparable (i.e. potentially 19th-century) date.
- 8.8. The function of undated pit 704, identified in Trench 7, excavated in the south-western part of the site, remains unclear due to its isolated nature within the excavated trench. It contained an environmental assemblage including abundant charcoal, possibly indicative of nearby domestic or industrial activity; however, given the lack of any artefactual material recovered from the pit's single fill, it is possible that the feature lies away from any concentration of settlement activity and relates to the agricultural use of the site.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Nicole Burkhardt, assisted by Dan Sausins, Noel Boothroyd, Jack Harrison, Chris Haywood, Tierney Tudor, Matt Coman, Ashley Strutt, Lloyd Clement, Aelfric Lyons and Richard Scurr. This report was written by Nicole Burkhardt. The finds report was written by Claire Collier-Jones. The biological evidence report was written by Kath Hunter Dowse. The report illustrations were

prepared by Alice Woodard. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

10. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth-Thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional limestone brash pebbles	>25	>1.8	0.43	PM/Mod
1	101	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey-yellow clay, occasional limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
1	102	Cut		Quarry pit	Sub-ovoid pit with irregular sides and base	2.9	>1	0.24	
1	103	Fill	102	Quarry pit fill	Yellow-brown silty clay, with angular limestone brash	2.9	>1	0.24	
1	104	Layer		Levelling layer	Dark grey brown, humic layer, siltyclay, firm, 10% charcoal flecks	>25	>1.8	0.11	LC18-C20
1	105	Cut		Quarry pit	Shape not observed in plan. NE edge moderately steep with a fairly flat base.	4.12	>0.7	0.37	
1	106	Fill	105	Quarry pit fill	Mid yellowy brown, silty clay, friable, with rare (5cm-10cm) stone inclusions and very rare charcoal flecks	4.12	>0.7	0.37	
1	107	Fill	105	Quarry pit fill	Mid to light brownish yellow, slightly silty clay, friable to compact, with occasional small (2cm-5cm) angular stones	0.94	>0.7	0.05	
1	108	Cut		Quarry pit	Shape not observed in plan, NE side moderately steep and concave with a slight step. Sw side not observed.	>3.1	>0.7	>0.77	
1	109	Fill	108	Quarry pit fill	Mid yellowy brown, silty clay, loose to friable, with charcoal flecks	>2.2	>0.7	>0.26	
1	110	Fill	108	Quarry pit fill	Mid yellowy brown, silty clay, friable, with occasional (5cm-10cm) stone inclusions and charcoal flecks	>3.1	>0.7	0.27	
1	111	Fill	108	Quarry pit fill	Mid brownish yellow, slightly silty clay, friable to compact, with frequent (5cm-15cm) angular limestone brash inclusions	>3	>0.7	0.1	
1	112	Fill	108	Quarry pit fill	Mid yellowy brown, very silty clay, friable, flecks of charcoal	>2.58	>0.7	0.13	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional limestone brash pebbles	>25	>1.8	0.21	
2	201	Layer		Levelling layer	Light grey-brown clay	>25	>1.8	0.5	
2	202	Layer		Buried topsoil	Dark grey brown, humic layer, siltyclay, firm, 10% charcoal flecks	>6.5	>1	0.1	
2	203	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey-orange clay	>6.5	>1		
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional limestone brash pebbles	>25	>1.8	0.25	
3	301	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey-orange clay	>25	>1.8		
3	302	Layer		Buried topsoil	Dark grey brown, humic layer, siltyclay, firm, 10% charcoal flecks	>10	>0.6	0.1	
3	303	Layer		Levelling layer	Light grey-brown clay	>10	>1.8	1	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional limestone brash pebbles	>25	>1.8	0.22	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth-Thickness (m)	Spot-date
4	401	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey-yellow and grey-brown clay with patches of limestone	>25	>1.8		
4	402	Layer		Colluvial Layer	Mid yellow orange silty clay with no inclusions as 503	>2.1	>1.8	0.05	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional limestone brash pebbles	>25	>1.8	0.22	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.12	
5	502	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey-yellow clay, occasional limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
5	503	Layer		Colluvial Layer	Mid yellow orange, silt- clay, with no inclusions	>6.33	>1.8		
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional limestone brash pebbles	>25	>1.8	0.21	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.12	
6	602	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey-yellow clay, occasional limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional limestone brash pebbles	>25	>1.8	0.34	
7	701	Layer		Colluvial Layer	Brown-yellow silty clay	>14.94	>1.8	0.15	
7	702	Void							
7	703	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey-yellow clay, occasional limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
7	704	Cut		Pit	Sub-ovoid pit with gradual sides and flat base	1.8	1.6	0.14	
7	705	Fill	704	Pit fill	Very dark greyish black	1.8	1.6	0.14	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.23	
8	801	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange-brown clay	>25	>1.8		
8	802	Layer		Colluvial Layer	Mid yellow-orange silty clay	2.98	>1.8	0.2	
8	803	Layer		Levelling layer	Blue-yellow clay	9.85	>1.8	1.1	C19+
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.25	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Orange-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.12	
9	902	Layer		Natural substrate	Grey-brown clay, occasional limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.33	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.19	
10	1002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey-yellow clay, occasional limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
10	1003	Fill	1004	Pond fill	Mid grey brown silty clay 1-5% rooting and brash possible pond deposit not based due to ground conditions	7.65	>1.8	>0.76	
10	1004	Cut		Pond	Irregular pond, with gradual sides and unknown base	7.65	>1.8	>0.76	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.43	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.4	
11	1102	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey-yellow clay, occasional limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
11	1103	Cut		Pond	Irregular pond, with gradual sides and unknown base	8.5	>1.8	>1.44	
11	1104	Fill	1103	Pond fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay Rooting material and redeposited brash pond deposit	8.5	>1.8		
11	1105	Fill	1103	Pond fill	Light yellow grey compact clay	8.5	>1.8		

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth-Thickness (m)	Spot-date
11	1106	Fill	1103	Pond fill	Dark brown grey clay silt, possible pond deposit	8.5	>1.8		
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.28	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.24	
12	1202	Layer		Natural substrate	Grey-brown clay	>25	>1.8		
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.3	
13	1301	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow-brown clay, with limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.31	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.2	
14	1402	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey-yellow clay, occasional limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.2	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.3	
15	1502	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown-grey silty clay	>25	>1.8		
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.22	
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Orange-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.14	
16	1602	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow-brown and grey clay, with patches of limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.21	
17	1701	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.1	
17	1702	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange-brown and grey clay, with patches of limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.2	
18	1801	Layer		Subsoil	Orange-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.11	
18	1802	Layer		Natural substrate	Lt grey clay with orange-brown patches	>25	>1.8		
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.2	
19	1901	Layer		Subsoil	Orange-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.04	
19	1902	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow-orange silt clay, with limestone inclusions	>25	>1.8		
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.3	
20	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.07	
20	2002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow-brown clay, with limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.35	
21	2101	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow-brown clay, with limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
22	2200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.44	
22	2201	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.1	
22	2202	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow-brown clay, with limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
22	2203	Cut		Natural Feature	Irregularly-shaped tree-throw, concave, Irregular slopes, flat base	1	1.66	0.32	
22	2204	Cut		Tree Throw	Tree throw, concave, irregular slopes, flat base	1	1.66	0.32	
22	2205	Fill	2204	Other Fill	Mid greyish brown compact silty clay	1	1.66	0.32	
23	2300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.17	
23	2301	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.15	
23	2302	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow-brown clay, with limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
24	2400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.34	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth-Thickness (m)	Spot-date
24	2401	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow-brown clay, with limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
25	2500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.4	
25	2501	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown-orange limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
25	2502	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW linear ditch, moderately sloping sides, flat base	1	0.66	0.17	
25	2503	Fill	2502	Ditch fill	Mid orangey brown silty clay	1	0.66	0.17	
26	2600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.34	
26	2601	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown-orange limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
27	2700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.31	
27	2701	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown-orange limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
28	2800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.23	
28	2801	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.1	
28	2802	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange-brown clay	>25	>1.8		
29	2900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.22	
29	2901	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.1	
29	2902	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange-brown clay	>25	>1.8		
29	2903	Layer		Other Layer	Geology - tested	1.8	0.78		
30	3000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.17	MC16-C18
30	3001	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.07	
30	3002	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow-brown clay and brash outcrops	>25	>1.8		
31	3100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.12	
31	3101	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.1	
31	3102	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange-brown clay	>25	>1.8		
32	3200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.13	
32	3201	Layer		Subsoil	Orange-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.23	
32	3202	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow-orange limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
33	3300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.17	
33	3301	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.07	
33	3302	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown-grey clay, with limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
34	3400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.25	
34	3401	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.08	
34	3402	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow-brown clay, with limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
35	3500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.2	
35	3501	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.18	
35	3502	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow-brown clay, with limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
36	3600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.2	
36	3601	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.1	
36	3602	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow-brown clay, with limestone brash	>25	>1.8		
37	3700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>25	>1.8	0.2	
37	3701	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay silt	>25	>1.8	0.1	
37	3702	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow-brown clay, with limestone brash	>25	>1.8		

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Concordance

Context	Material	Fabric	Description	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Spot-date
100	Glass		green vessel frag	1	1	PM/Mod
104	PM/Mod Pottery	RWW	Refined whiteware	2	18	LC18-C20
	PM Pottery	GRE	Glazed red earthenware	3	36	
	PM/Mod Pottery	TPWW	Transfer printed whiteware	1	2	
	PM/Mod Pottery	CW	Creamware	1	4	
	PM/Mod Pottery	LES	Late English Stonewares	3	31	
	Clay Tobacco Pipe		stem frag	1	3	
	Glass		colourless window	1	5	
	CBM		hard fired, orange sandy, 1 surface	1	1	
	Glass		light blue bottle base	2	55	
803	Leather		Shoe fragment	1	6	C19+
	Glass		brown bottle base	2	156	
	CBM		hard fired, orange sandy, curved tile, possibly pantile	1	16	
3000	PM Pottery	GRE	Glazed red earthenware	1	38	MC16-C18

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains.

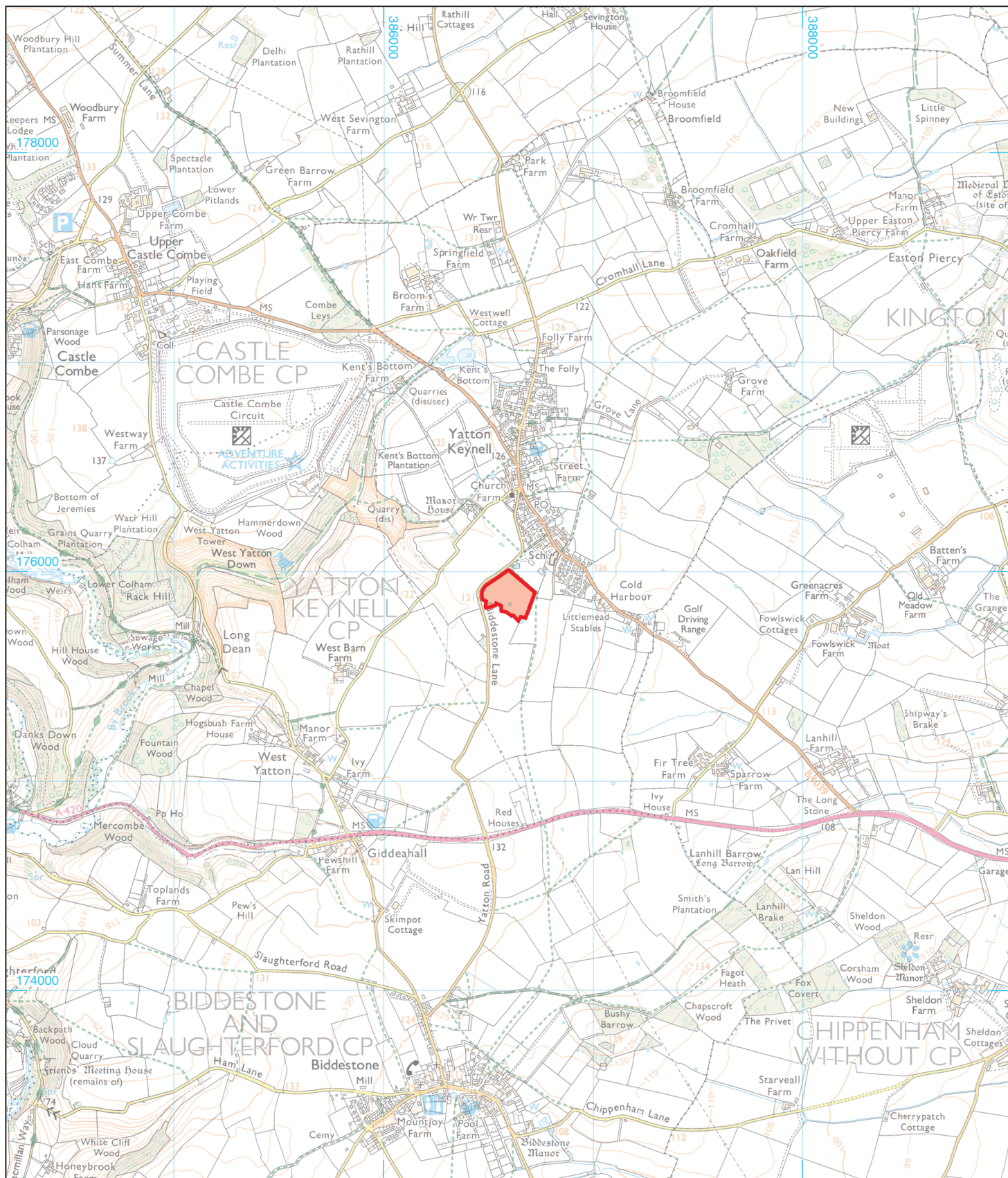
Period	Trench	Cut	Context	Sample	Context Type	Processed (l)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	cereal nfi	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Charcoal notes	Other
ud	7	704	705	1	single fill of pit	40	60	60					*	cf. <i>Salvia</i> sp., indet seeds	**/****		b bone*, Fe frags ***, coal*

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items b bone = burnt bone, Fe frags = iron frags

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land South-West of Yatton Keynell	
Site code	YKN25	
Short description	Between October and November 2025, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the south-west of Yatton Keynell, Wiltshire. A total of 37 trenches were excavated. The ploughed out remains of medieval/post-medieval furrows were identified cutting the subsoil in three trenches excavated in the north-western part of the site. A number of levelling deposits, one of which contained artefactual material of a 19th-century date, were identified in four trenches excavated in the south-western part of the site. Three large undated pits, most likely relating to quarrying activity, were identified in a trench excavated in the south-western part of the site. An undated ditch, most probably relating to agricultural land management, drainage or division, was identified in a trench excavated in the eastern part of the site. Two probable ponds were identified in two trenches excavated in the southern part of the site. Neither pond is shown on available historic mapping, however a further pond is shown immediately to the west of the current site on the 1841 Tithe Map for the parish of Yatton Keynell suggesting that these features may be of a broadly comparable date.	
Project dates	20 October 2025 to 3 November 2025	
Project type	Evaluation	
Planning reference number	Wiltshire Council: PL/2025/03672	
Development type	Residential	
Previous work	Desk-Based Archaeology and Built Heritage Assessment (PPG 2025); Geophysical survey (SUMO 2025)	
Future work	Unknown	
Methodology	The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 37 trenches, each measuring 25m in length by 1.8m in width. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land South-West of Yatton Keynell, Wiltshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	4.2ha	
Site co-ordinates	386588 175889	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Leader	Nicole Burkhardt	
Funder	Cotswold Homes	
SCIENTIFIC DATING UNDERTAKEN	No	
ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING	Yes	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS	SWARF	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.):	Content:
Physical	Chippenham Museum	Pottery, clay tobacco pipe, glass and CBM

Paper	Chippenham Museum	Trench and context sheets, registers, permatrace drawings.
Digital	Chippenham Museum and the ADS	Digital photos.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2025 <i>Land South-West of Yatton Keynell, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report CR2044_1		



 Site boundary

0 1:25,000 1km

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PROJECT TITLE
Land South-West of Yatton Keynell,
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

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PM AT
PROJECT NO. CR2044
DATE 05/11/2025
SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- Site boundary
 - Evaluation trench
 - Archaeological feature
 - Furrow
 - Modern
 - Deposit
 - Natural
 - Treethrow
- Geophysical survey results (SUMO 2025)**
- Ridge and furrow
 - Uncertain origin- discrete anomaly
 - Uncertain origin- trend
 - Uncertain origin- increased response
 - Former field boundary (corroborated)
 - Agriculture (land drain)
 - Natural (e.g. geological/pedological)
 - Ferrous



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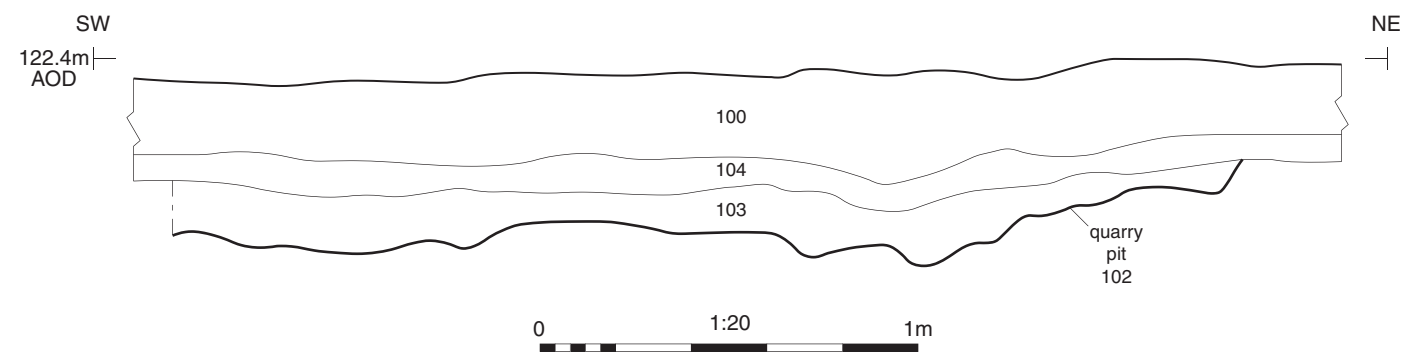
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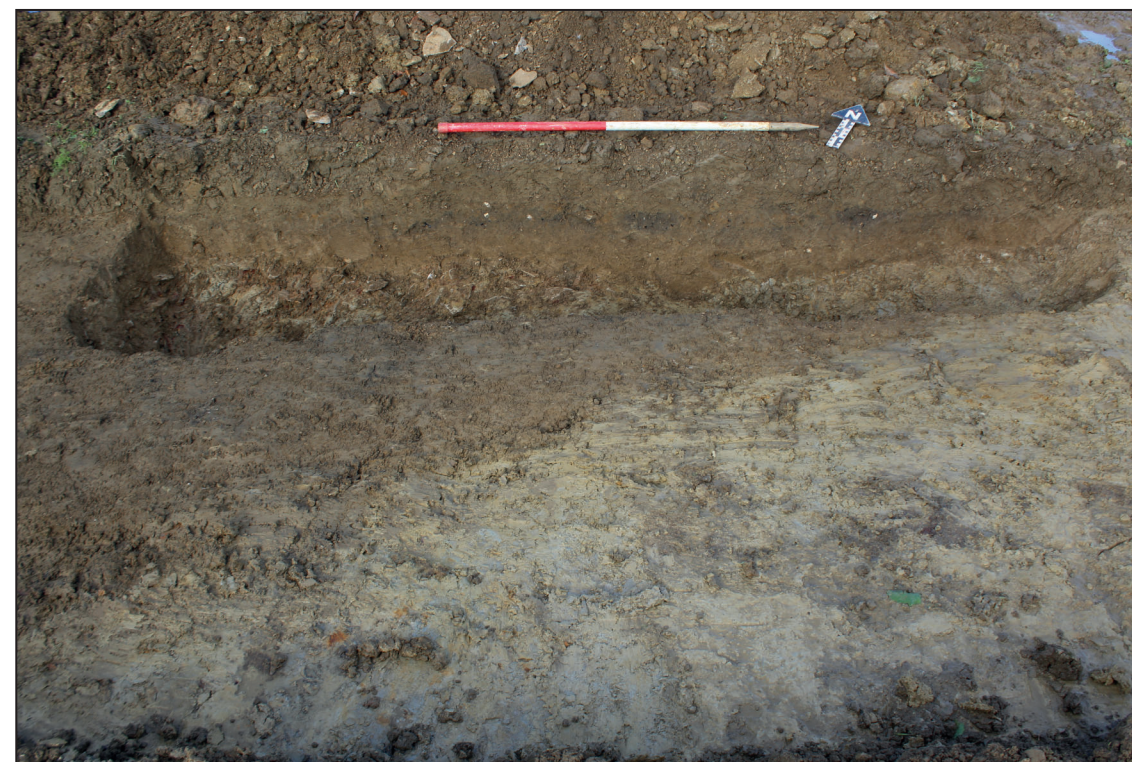
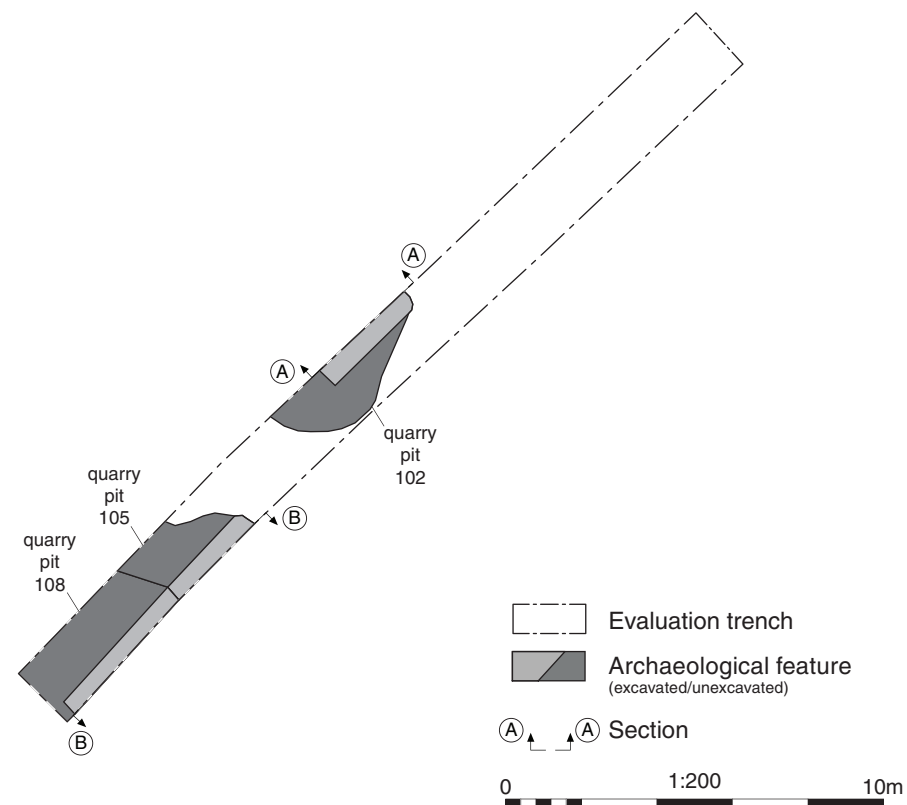
FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing
geophysical survey results and
identified archaeological features

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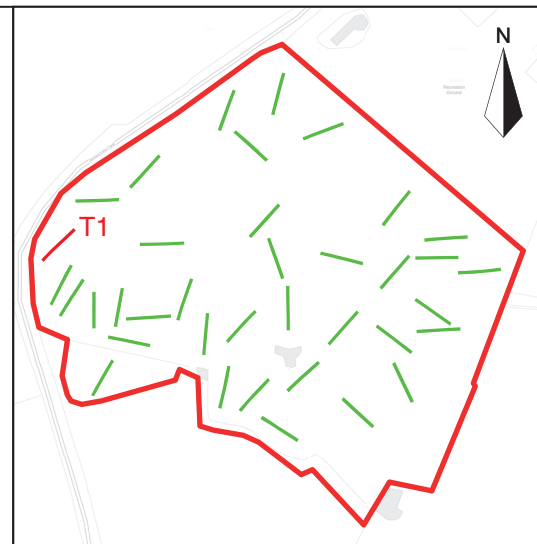
Section AA



Trench 1



Quarry pit 102, looking north-west (1m scale)



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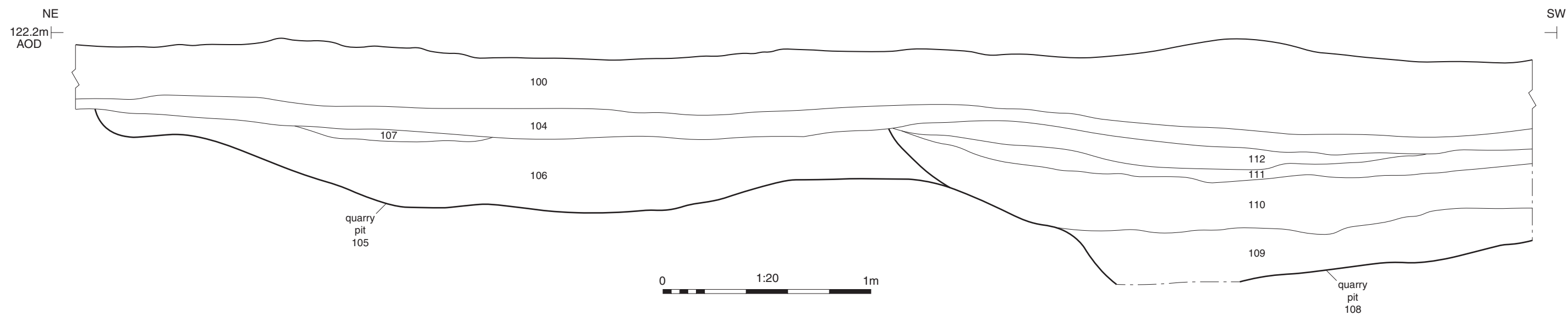
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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 1: plan, section and photograph

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Section BB

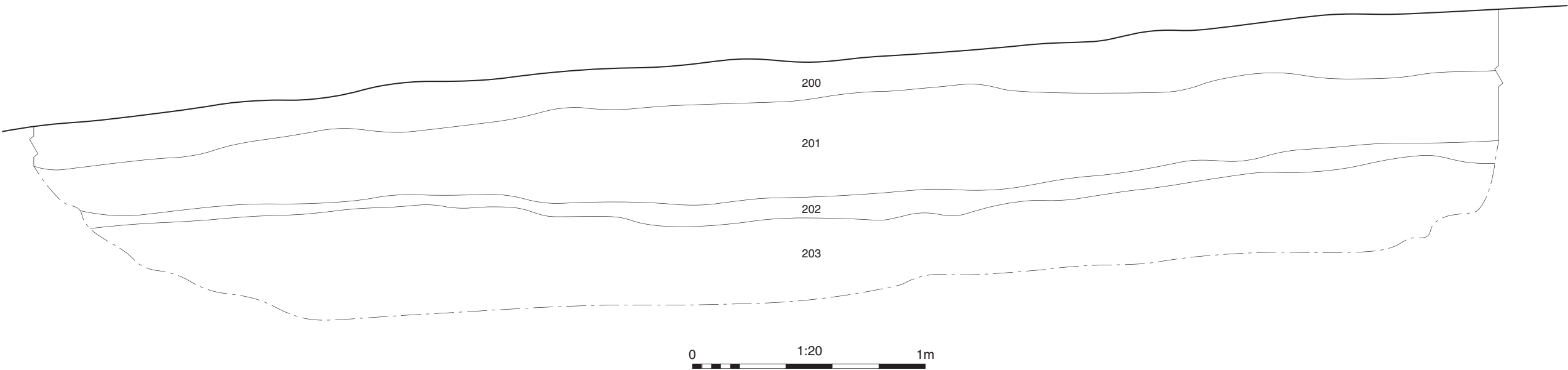


Quarry pits 105 and 108, looking south-east (1m scale)

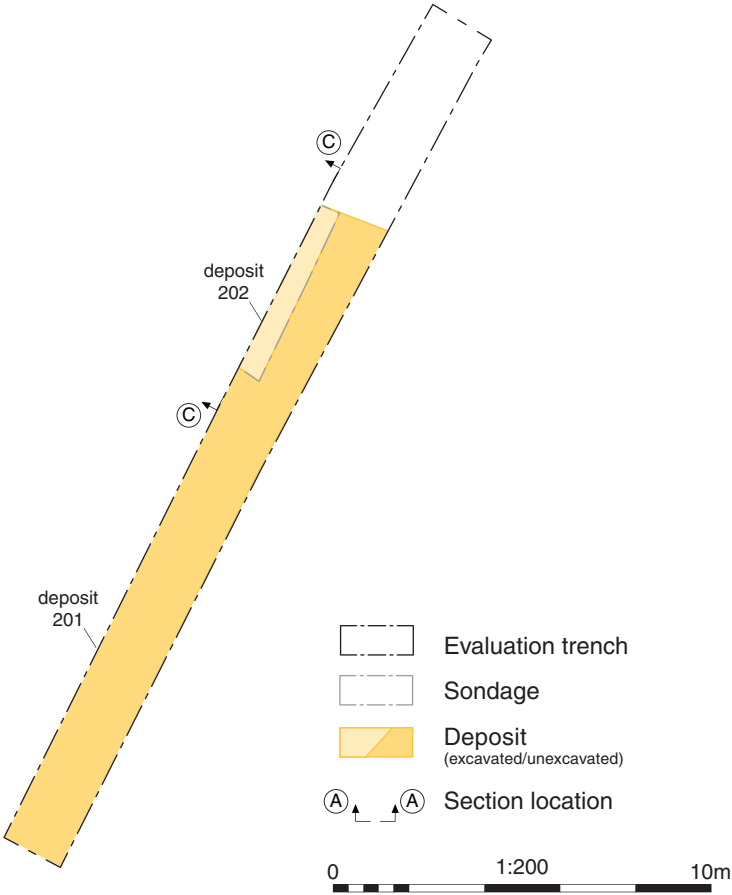
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SW
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AOD

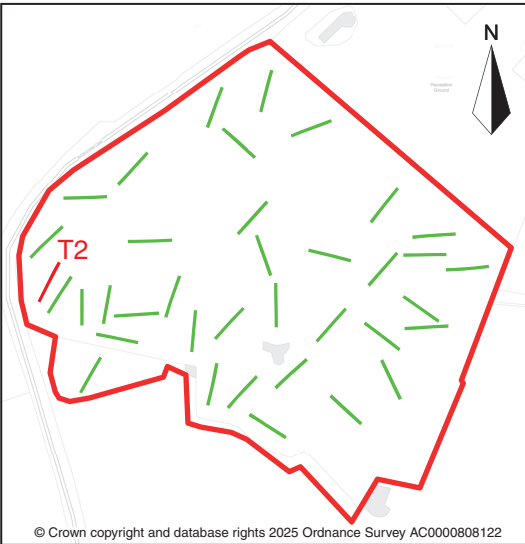
NE



Trench 2



Leveling deposit 201 and buried topsoil 202, looking north-east (1m scale)



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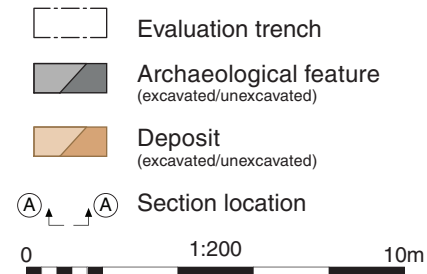
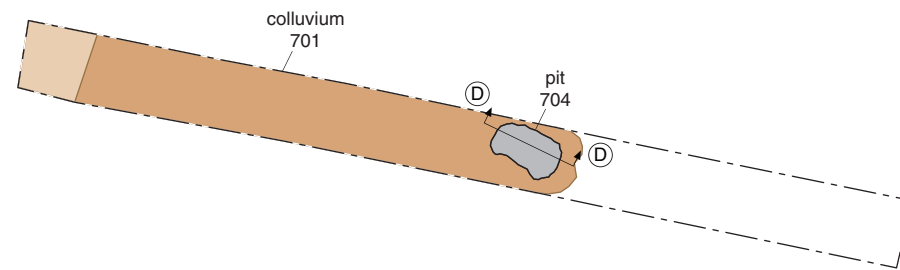
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Land South-West of Yatton Keynell,
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2: plan, section and photograph

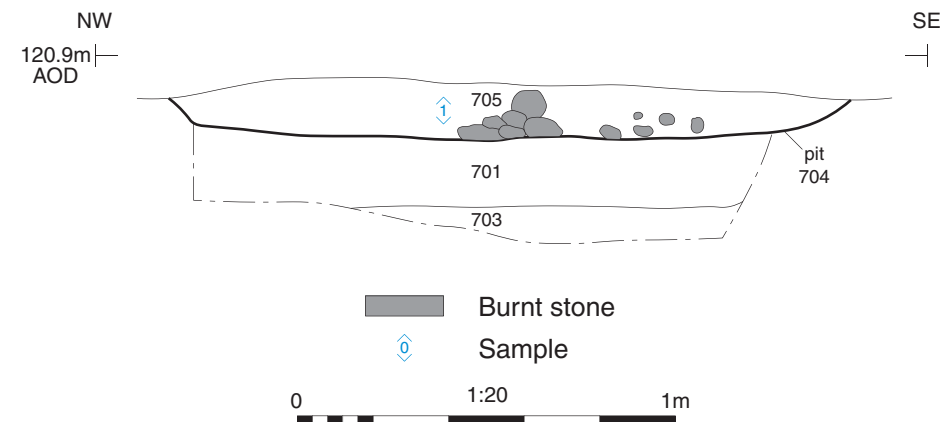
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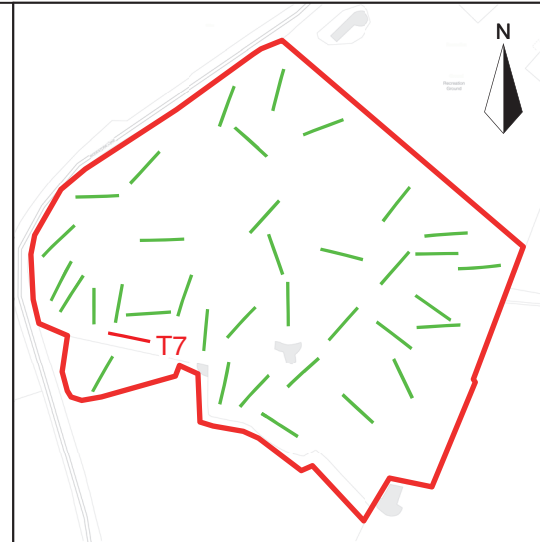
Trench 7



Section DD



Pit 704, looking north-east (1m scale)



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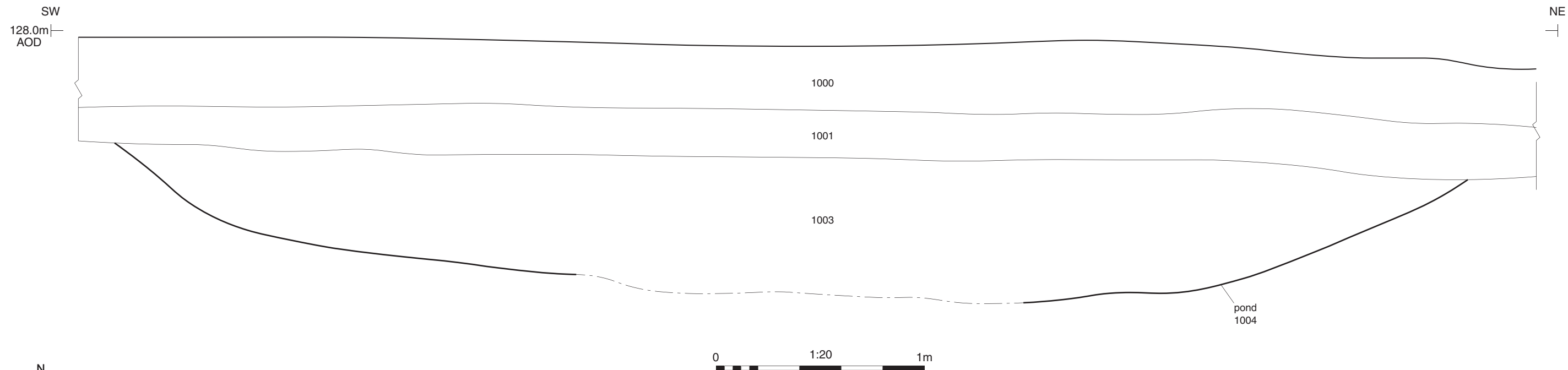
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Land South-West of Yatton Keynell,
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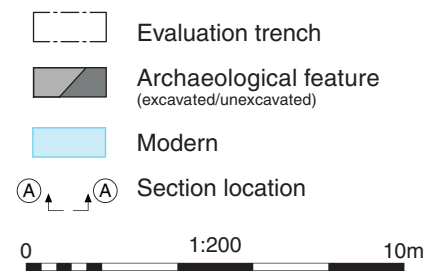
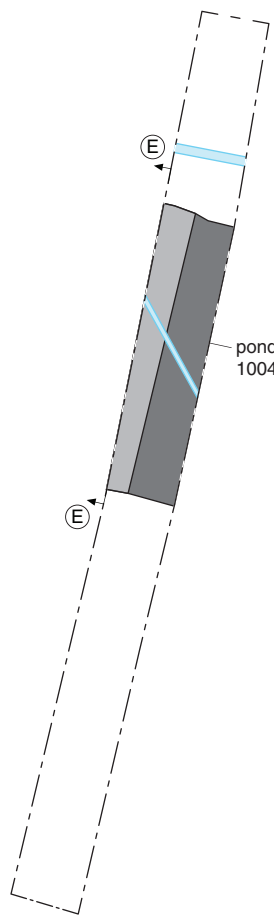
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Section EE



Trench 10



Pond 1004, looking south-west (1m scale)



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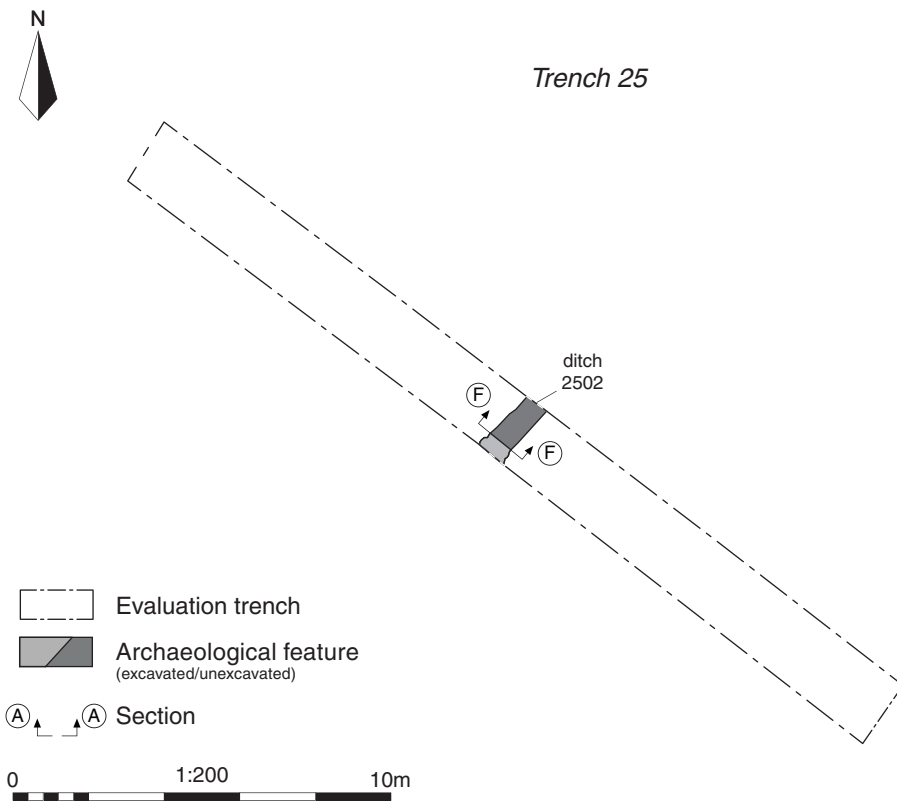
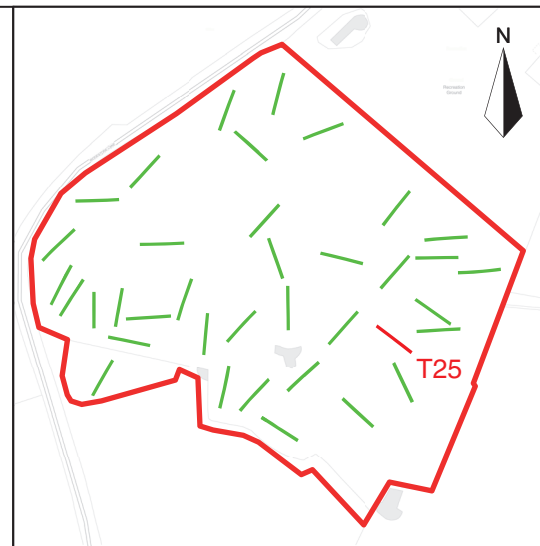
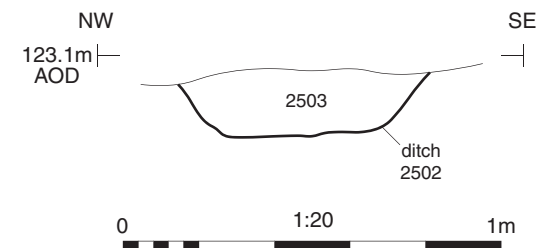
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 10: plan, section and
photograph

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Section FF



Ditch 2502, looking north-east (0.5m scale)

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Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 25: plan, section and
photograph**

DRAWN BY CHECKED BY PM	AW LZS AT	PROJECT NO. DATE SCALE@A3	CR2044 05/11/2025 1:200, 1:20	FIGURE NO. 8
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