

Land at West Lavington, Wiltshire - Archaeological Evaluation Report

CG Fry & Son Ltd

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Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Archaeological and historical background.....	4
3. Aims and Objectives	7
4. Methodology for Archaeological Evaluation	8
5. Results	12
6. Conclusions	16
7. Archive	18
8. References	19
Figures and Plates.....	21
Appendix A: Context Summary.....	22
Appendix B: Finds Assessment	26
Appendix C: OASIS form	31

Tables

Table 1: Trench level summary.....	12
Table 2: Context Descriptions	22
Table 3: Material recovered by context with date range, count and weight.	27

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Trench results overlain on geophysics

Figure 3: Trench results overlain on geophysics interpretation. Trench 7, 8, and 10.

List of Plates

Plate 1: Trench 4, looking northwest

Plate 2: Trench 6, looking southeast

Plate 3: Trench 7, looking east

Plate 4: Trench 9, looking southeast

Plate 5: Trench 1 representative section, looking southeast

Plate 6: Trench 2 representative section, looking southwest

Plate 7: Trench 10 representative section, looking southeast

Plate 8: Trench 12 representative section, looking northwest

Plate 9: Pit 304, looking northeast

Plate 10: Pit 403, looking northeast

Plate 11: Pit 703, looking north

Plate 12: Pit 706, looking north

Plate 13: Pit 804, looking south

Plate 14: Pit 1004, looking southeast

Plate 15: Pit 1006, looking southeast

Executive Summary

Cura Terrae were commissioned by Landgage Heritage Ltd on behalf of CG Fry & Son (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological trench evaluation at land at West Lavington, Wiltshire.

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA) was produced by Landgage Heritage Ltd in 2024 and a geophysical survey was undertaken by Lefort Geophysics in 2024. The geophysical survey identified a small number of anomalies of archaeological potential, and a possible trackway of post-medieval date. The archaeological evaluation comprised of 12 trenches that represented a 3% sample of the 2.1 ha Site.

The results of the archaeological evaluation did not conform to the result of the geophysical survey. The only matching feature was a former field boundary identified in trenches 1 and 2. The possible archaeological features from the geophysical survey were not observed within the trenches, and the features identified in the trenches were not observed on the geophysical survey.

A total of eight circular pits were identified in five of the trenches. The diameter of these pits were broadly the same at around 0.80 m. Although the pits varied in depth, they were all similar in that they had vertical sides and flat bases. Pottery, animal bone, fired clay, and iron nails were all recovered from these pits.

The purpose of these pits is unclear. While historical mapping from the ADBA (Landgage Heritage 2024) provides no definitive indication of their use, they likely relate to agricultural activity during the post-medieval period or to the site's use as allotment gardens in the twentieth century. The three pits observed in Trench 10 are regular in shape and equally spaced, a pattern that may be reflected across the site. This supports the suggestion that they are related to the former allotment gardens in some way and would be of low significance.

Pottery recovered from all the pits ranged in date from the late iron age to the post-medieval period. However, the material was highly fragmentary and exclusively recovered from topsoil or deliberate pit backfill layers, likely being associated with the wider region rather than the immediate Site or features. For example, Pit 1004 contained one fragment of pottery from the late iron age, one fragment from the medieval period, and one fragment from the post-medieval period. It was probable that the material had been redistributed by agricultural activities taking place during the post-medieval to modern period. Therefore all the pottery recovered from the site is considered to be residual, in addition to the unclear purpose of the features.

The possible trackway identified in the geophysical survey (Lefort Geophysics 2024) was not observed in trenches 9 and 11. No evidence of this could be found in either trench. Sondages were excavated in trench 11 to be certain, and only the green sand forming the bedrock geology was identified.

The archive is currently stored at Cura Terrae's Basingstoke office under project 25571.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Cura Terrae was commissioned by Landgage Heritage Ltd on behalf of CG Fry & Son Ltd (hereafter 'the Client'), to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation at land at West Lavington, Wiltshire (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site is centred on National Grid Co-ordinate 400425 , 153250 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA) was produced for the Site by Landgage Heritage Ltd in 2024. A Geophysical Survey was also undertaken in 2024 by Lefort Geophysics. The geophysical survey identified a small number of anomalies and trends of archaeological potential.
- 1.1.3 Cura Terrae Ltd prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that presented the proposed methodology and standards for the archaeological evaluation due to be undertaken at the Site (Cura Terrae 2025).
- 1.1.4 The proposed area of development measures c. 2.1 ha and the archaeological trench evaluation comprises 12 trenches; measuring 30 m long and 1.8 m wide. This represents a 3% sample of the site with a 1% contingency held in the reserve. The work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Archaeologist.
- 1.1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken between 13th and 16th October 2025.
- 1.1.6 This report presents a digest of information on the character and significance of the deposits under review and will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate further action, including mitigation if required by the LPA. This report will also aim to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

1.2 Site Description

Location

- 1.2.1 The Site is c. 2.1 ha in size and comprises of two agricultural fields located immediately west of High Steet, West Lavington and north of White Street, West Lavington.
- 1.2.2 The Site is bounded by residential property to the north and east, and agricultural fields to the south and west.

Topography

- 1.2.3 There is a slight slope on the Site from c. 91 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north west to c.87 aOD in the south.

Geology

- 1.2.4 The underlying bedrock geology has been mapped by British Geological Survey as Upper Greensand Formation – Sandstone, glauconitic, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 113 and 93.9 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. There are no superficial deposits recorded within the site (British Geological Survey 2025).

2. Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following is summarised from an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment produced by Landgage Heritage Ltd. (2024). The Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment utilised a 1 km search of the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (WSHER). Numbers in brackets indicate the WSHER record number.

2.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

Geophysical Survey

- 2.2.1 A geophysical survey of the Site (Lefort Geophysics 2024) was undertaken and identified several anomalies and trends. These included a linear feature of probable archaeological origin, and two linear anomalies which potentially represent archaeological features. The linear feature is most likely to represent a trackway or road, potentially representing a trackway recorded on historic mapping (Landgage Heritage 2024). The two linear anomalies may represent later agricultural features and are therefore classed as possible archaeology.

2.3 Historic Context

Prehistoric

- 2.3.1 Within 1km of the Site there are five records from the WSHER which have a possible prehistoric origin. These include the Early Iron Age settlement recorded by Wessex Archaeology in 1986, which comprised 95 ditches with a range of finds discovered in them. A findspot is also identified c. 240 m north west of the Site which comprises a Bronze Age rapier fragment found in 1970 (MWI74951).

Romano-British

- 2.3.2 There is some evidence for Romano-British activity within 1km of the Site, although none are within 500 m. This includes the potential Romano-British site c. 655 m north west of the Site, and the archaeological investigations at Strawberry Hill undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (1986), c. 730m from the Site. Both investigations yielded a variety finds of including animal bone and coins, with the latter incorporating over 200 coins found in one area 900 m south west of the Site.
- 2.3.3 There are three findspots recorded on the WSHER within 1km, including a coin located 355 m south east of the Site (MWI7585), a nest site with a small amount of Romano-British pottery c. 650 m north east of the Site (MWI7581), and a findspot with a coin and pottery fragment c. 965 m south west of the Site (MWI7577).

Early medieval and medieval

- 2.3.4 Medieval settlement activity, which may extend into the Site, is evident within the study area from sources including historical records, the previous archaeological investigations, and aerial photography.
- 2.3.5 In the Domesday Book '[Market and West] Lavington' is recorded as a settlement with 86 households owned by two landowners. Approximately 735 m north west a larger Medieval settlement of 111 households is recorded as 'Great and Little Cheverell', also belonging to two owners (Palmer & Powell-Smith 2016).
- 2.3.6 The geophysical survey has identified a potential trackway, as well as ridge and furrow, which may have originated in the Medieval period. A road is present within a 1773 Map of Wiltshire which could correspond to the anomaly and, given the nearby location of the probable Medieval settlement, the ADBA suggests this could have also been extant within the Medieval period.
- 2.3.7 The evidence for Medieval settlement also potentially includes earthworks discovered using aerial photography which are present throughout West Lavington, located as close as c. 95 m south east of the Site. There has been little investigation done into the earthworks however, therefore their nature is not clear.

Post-medieval

- 2.3.8 The geophysical survey undertaken by Lefort Geophysics (2024) identified a linear archaeological feature which may align with a trackway recorded on a 1773 Map of Wiltshire. There is no evidence of the trackway in subsequent OS mapping from 1802-1856 onwards.
- 2.3.9 The subsequent mapping shows that the Site was used predominantly agriculturally within the post-medieval period, with an area to the north west being represented as being under tree cover in the OS County Series Map 1885-1886.
- 2.3.10 The land to the north and east of the Site experiences some expansion during the post-medieval period according to the mapping, whilst the Site itself and study area to the west remain as agricultural land. According to the WSHR an Italianate garden was constructed 45 m north east of the Site in the early 17th century, which underwent alteration as late as 1908 (MWI7616).

Twentieth Century

- 2.3.11 In the OS maps from 1926 and 1957 the Site is labelled as 'Allotment Gardens'. This label is no longer included in the OS National Grid Map of 1981-1982. Between the 1957 map and the map from 1981-82 some expansion of West Lavington is evident, mainly comprising new houses within the cul-de-sac of residential properties to the north, and new buildings on the school grounds, to the north west.

2.3.12 The Site remains as undeveloped land throughout the late 19th and 20th centuries, altering from agricultural land in 1899, to allotments, and back to become two separate agricultural fields. There is suggestion on the 1981-1982 map that a part of the northern field was apportioned for an unknown purpose.

2.4 Previous Disturbance

2.4.1 The Site has experienced ongoing agricultural activity which is likely to have affected any remaining archaeological features. Although the farming of the Site, and the use of the Site as allotments, is likely to have caused damage to any remains, some remains may have survived. These are likely to be truncated.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information to:

- Identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric within the identified areas of interest;
- Investigate and characterise the features identified in the geophysical survey (Lefort Geophysics 2024);
- Determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any encountered or exposed archaeological remains;
- Recover artefacts and dating evidence from any archaeological feature encountered;
- Accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas and establish the sequence of archaeological remains and natural deposits present on the Site;
- To retrieve any environmental archaeological evidence relating to past environments and economy of the Site;
- Prepare a comprehensive record; and
- Interpret the archaeological features and finds within the context of the known archaeology of the Site and the surrounding area;

3.1.2 The objectives of the project are:

- Investigate if any archaeological remains survive on Site; and;
- to produce a record of the archaeological works sufficient to help inform the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological works that the LPA Archaeologist might recommend.

3.1.3 Whilst the specific aims and objectives outlined above were utilised, they were also subject to change and addition as the work progressed. Any changes would have been conveyed to the Client and the LPA Archaeologist.

3.1.4 This evaluation report will present a digest of information on the character and significance of the deposits under review and this report will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate further action. The evaluation will also aim to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

3.1.5 The results will be considered in line with research aims contained within the South West England Archaeological Research Framework if appropriate.

4. Methodology for Archaeological Evaluation

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section sets out the methodology for the archaeological evaluation, as outlined in the WSI (Cura Terrae Ltd 2025).
- 4.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken by Cura Terrae, a ClfA Registered Organisation. All work was undertaken by experienced staff who are corporate members of ClfA, or who demonstrably work to an equivalent standard for fieldwork.

4.2 Standards and Guidelines

- 4.2.1 The project conforms to the current national and regional guidance as set out by Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) and Historic England:
- *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2020a);
 - *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2020b);
 - *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2022);
 - *Standard for Archaeological Evaluation* (ClfA 2023a) and *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (ClfA 2023b);
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015b); and
 - Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2011).
- 4.2.2 Any changes to the methodology would have been agreed with the LPA Archaeologist in advance of the work being undertaken.

4.3 Purpose of Evaluation Standards

- 4.3.1 The purpose of the archaeological evaluation standards is to provide information on the character and significance of remains present. The results of the archaeological evaluation will be used to determine the need for and scope of any further archaeological works. The requirement for any further work would be decided by the LPA Archaeologist.

4.4 Trench Location

- 4.4.1 A trenching plan had been devised to test the archaeological preservation across the Site, maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the significance of the archaeological resource is understood to a level of details proportionate to its importance. The trenches have been designed to provide a good spread of investigation across the Site, and to target date from the geophysical survey. The trench plan had been agreed with the LPA Archaeologist
- 4.4.2 The evaluation comprised 12 trenches measuring 30 m x 1.8 m. This equated to a 3% sampled of the Site, with a 1% contingency held in reserve should this be required. Trenches were excavated to the top of archaeologically significant remains or the natural geology, whichever was higher.
- 4.4.3 The length of trench 2 was shortened by approximately 5m at the southeast end due to the modern service identified in the geophysical survey, which was confirmed by the use of a CAT scanner.
- 4.4.4 The centre point of each end of the trench was located on the ground using differential Global Positioning System (dGPS) technology.
- 4.4.5 Each trench was scanned with a cable avoidance tool (CAT) prior to excavation and if necessary rescanned at subsequent intervals during excavation.

4.5 Trench Excavation Methodology

- 4.5.1 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine work was carried out under the direct supervision of an archaeologist.
- 4.5.2 All topsoil and recent overburden was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever is encountered first, in successive level spits.
- 4.5.3 Excavated topsoil, subsoil, and other deposits were stored separately, set back at least 1 m from the edges of the excavated trenches.
- 4.5.4 Both ends of the trenches were ramped to allow safe ingress and egress. Plant was not allowed to track within excavated trenches prior to reinstatement.
- 4.5.5 The stratigraphy of all trenches was recorded. Spoil heaps were monitored to allow analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
- 4.5.6 Any revealed archaeological features or deposits were cleaned by hand prior to excavation. The aim of this was to record all significant archaeological features within each trench, and to undertake sufficient intrusive excavation to enable the date, character, form, and stratigraphic relationship to be understood.

4.5.7 The following strategy was employed as a typical sample level for hand excavated features:

- o 20% sample by plan area (minimum 1 m length) of domestic and settlement related linear features, depending on their nature and significance;
- o 50% of discrete features (such as pits and postholes) as a minimum, though some will be 100% excavated to confirm function or for ease of excavation (in the case of small features);
- o 20% sample by plan area (minimum 1 m length) of non-settlement related linear features, such as medieval or earlier field boundaries, depending on their nature and significance;
- o 20% sample by plan area (minimum 1 m length) of linear features of lesser archaeological significance such as post-medieval or later boundary ditches;
- o 100% of ditch terminals; and
- o All intersections between features will be investigated unless they are identified as being of a sufficient complexity to warrant further investigation.

4.5.8 All archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them.

4.5.9 All work was undertaken with the view to avoid damage to any surviving archaeological remains which appear to be worthy of preservation *in situ*. If such remains were identified this would have been discussed with both the Client and LPA Archaeologist.

4.5.10 Trench backfilling only took place under appropriate conditions and with archaeological supervision, following approval by the LPA Archaeologist. Arisings were returned to each trench in the correct order.

4.6 Recording Methodology

4.6.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using a continuous numbered context system on a proforma recording system in accordance with industry standards. The written record is hierarchically based and centred on the context record. Each context record fully describes the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and cross-referenced to all other assigned records. Written recording was undertaken in a digital format using the Diggit application (<https://www.diggitarchaeology.com>).

4.6.2 The trenches as excavated and all archaeological features were surveyed by means of a differential Global Positioning System (dGPS). Drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.

4.6.3 A photographic record of the Site was taken using digital photography at a minimum resolution of 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Output was in TIFF/JPEG format. All digital photography was undertaken in accordance with national guidance (Historic England 2015a).

4.7 Finds

- 4.7.1 A finds assessment report is provided in Appendix B.
- 4.7.2 Finds were treated and cleaned in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2020a) and Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023a and b).
- 4.7.3 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained and recorded by context. All finds were exposed, lifted, processed, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged, and boxed in accordance with the requirements of the receiving museum. Any finds requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 2001).

4.8 Environmental Sampling

- 4.8.1 No archaeological features or deposits of environmental significance were observed. Therefore, no environmental samples were recovered during the archaeological evaluation of the Site.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section presents the results of the archaeological evaluation. The context descriptions are reproduced in Appendix A.

5.1.2 The evaluation consisted of 12 mechanically excavated trenches. The trench results are shown in Figure 2 which is overlaid on the geophysical survey interpretation.

5.2 Results

5.2.1 A summary description of each trench follows in Appendix A and a summary of trench levels in m above Ordnance Datum (m aOD) in Table 1.

Table 1: Trench level summary

Trench	Base		Top	
Trench 1	Min 88.175 NE	Max 88.626 SW	Min 88.495 NE	Min 89.028 SW
Trench 2	Min 88.455 SE	Max 88.718 NW	Min 88.934 SE	Min 89.069 NW
Trench 3	Min 87.148 NE	Max 87.596 SW	Min 87.49 NE	Min 88.121 SW
Trench 4	Min 88.182 SE	Max 88.488 NW	Min 88.422 SE	Min 88.757 NW
Trench 5	Min 87.212 NE	Max 87.869 SW	Min 87.61 NE	Min 88.264 SW
Trench 6	Min 86.576 SE	Max 87.014 NW	Min 86.989 SE	Min 87.454 NW
Trench 7	Min 86.78 E	Max 87.594 W	Min 87.194 E	Min 87.983 W
Trench 8	Min 85.536 E	Max 86.438 W	Min 85.97 E	Min 86.894 W
Trench 9	Min 86.324 SE	Max 86.816 NW	Min 86.743 SE	Min 87.226 NW
Trench 10	Min 85.352 NE	Max 86.008 SW	Min 85.826 NE	Min 86.613 SW
Trench 11	Min 83.434 SE	Max 84.332 NW	Min 84.893 SE	Min 85.535 NW
Trench 12	Min 84.803 NE	Max 85.377 SW	Min 85.168 NE	Min 86.011 SW

5.3 Stratigraphic Sequence

5.3.1 The stratigraphic sequence was somewhat consistent among all of the trenches, with some variances. All trenches contained a topsoil. This resided over a subsoil that was observed in all trenches except for trench 4. The subsoil resided over the natural geology. These mostly matched with the expected natural geology outlined in the Geology Viewer for the British Geological Survey (BGS 2025). For further information on these deposits see Appendix A.

- 5.3.2 The natural geology was inconsistent across the Site, specifically in the trenches to the north-west. The natural geology for the majority of the trenches comprised a mid greyish green sandy loam with rare flecks of chalk. The trenches that differed were trenches 1, 2, 4, and 11. The natural geology in trench 1 comprised a light whitish green sandy loam. The natural geology in trench 2 comprised a mid brownish orange sandy loam. The natural geology in trench 4 comprised a light whitish grey sandy loam. The natural geology in trench 11 comprised a mid greenish brown sandy loam, which overlay the bedrock geology of light green sand.
- 5.3.3 The subsoil was consistent within every trench. It comprised a mid greenish grey fine silty sand. The subsoil ranged from 0.05 to 0.25 m in thickness across all trenches.
- 5.3.4 The topsoil was consistent within every trench. It comprised a dark blackish brown fine silty sand. The topsoil ranged from 0.25 to 0.35 m in thickness across all trenches.

5.4 Archaeological Results

- 5.4.1 Of the twelve trenches, archaeological features were observed in five trenches across the Site. This does not include two trenches that observed the same known former field boundary. These features were investigated by hand excavation and subsequently recorded according to the outlined methodology above. For further information on these features see Appendix A.
- 5.4.2 Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, and 12 did not contain any archaeological features or deposits and will not be discussed further. Summary descriptions of the deposits in these trenches are provided in Appendix A.
- 5.4.3 The potential trackway or road mentioned in the ADBA and possibly observed in the geophysical survey results, was not identified in trenches 9 and 11.

Trench Results

Trench 3

- 5.4.4 Trench 3 was located in the northern part of the Site, and was orientated from north east to south west. The trench contained one pit that was not observed in the geophysical survey results.
- 5.4.5 The natural geology 303 was found at a maximum depth of 0.42 m below the modern ground surface.
- 5.4.6 Pit 304 was located in the north eastern part of the trench. It measured 0.58 m in diameter and 0.11 m in depth. Pit 304 contained one deliberate backfill (305) that comprised a dark greenish black clayey sand. The fill contained significant charcoal, however it was agreed with the LPA Archaeologist that it was not to be sampled due to the lack of archaeological features present within the Site and that the lack of artefacts recovered from the Pit.

Trench 4

- 5.4.7 Trench 4 was located in the western part of the Site, and was orientated from north west to south east. The trench contained one pit that was not observed in the geophysical survey results.
- 5.4.8 The natural geology was found at a maximum depth of 0.29 below the modern ground surface.
- 5.4.9 Pit 403 was located in the south eastern part of the trench. It measured 0.87 m in diameter and 0.25 m in depth. Pit 403 contained one deliberate backfill (404) that comprised a dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of chalk and rare flecks of charcoal. Some fragments of late medieval to early post-medieval pottery, animal bone, and iron objects were recovered from the fill.

Trench 7

- 5.4.10 Trench 7 was located in the centre of the Site, and was orientated from east to west. The trench contained two pits that were not observed in the geophysical survey results.
- 5.4.11 The natural geology was found at a maximum depth of 0.41 m below the modern ground surface.
- 5.4.12 Pit 704 was located near the eastern end of the trench. It measured 1.0 m wide and 0.25 m in depth. Pit 704 contained one deliberate backfill (705) that comprised a dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate flecks of chalk, occasional flecks of charcoal, and rare medium to large sandstone inclusions. Some fragments of post-medieval pottery, animal bone, and iron objects were recovered from the fill.
- 5.4.13 Pit 706 was located near the western end of the trench, and continued north beyond the limits of the trench. It measured 0.57 m wide and 0.27 m in depth. Pit 706 contained one deliberate backfill (707) that comprised a dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate flecks of chalk, occasional flecks of charcoal, and occasional medium to large sandstone inclusions. Some fragments of post-medieval pottery, animal bone, and iron objects were recovered from the fill.

Trench 8

- 5.4.14 Trench 8 was located in the centre of the Site, and was orientated from east to west. The trench contained one pit that was not observed in the geophysical survey results.
- 5.4.15 The natural geology was found at a maximum depth of 0.56 m below the modern ground surface.
- 5.4.16 Pit 804 was located near the centre of the trench. It measured 0.80 m wide and 0.10 m in depth. Pit 804 contained one deliberate backfill (805) that comprised a dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional flecks of chalk. Some fragments of post-medieval pottery and animal bone were recovered from the fill.

Trench 10

- 5.4.17 Trench 10 was located in the southern part of the Site, and was orientated from north east to south west. The trench contained three pits that were not observed in the geophysical survey results.
- 5.4.18 The natural geology was found at a maximum depth of 0.38 m below the modern ground surface.
- 5.4.19 Pit 1004 was located in the north eastern part of the trench. It measured 0.73 m in diameter and 0.09 m in depth. Pit 1004 contained one deliberate backfill (1005) that comprised a mid greyish brown sandy loam with rare flecks of chalk. Some fragments of late medieval and post-medieval pottery and animal bone were recovered from the fill. One shred of hand pottery, dating to the late Iron Age, early Roman period was also recovered from the pit, but this thought to be residual. Pit 1004 was also located less than 0.5 m away from a modern water pipe (small hose pipe), likely placed there by the landowner in the twentieth century.
- 5.4.20 Pit 1006 was located near the centre of the trench. It measured 0.83 m in diameter and 0.11 m in depth. Pit 1006 contained one deliberate backfill (1007) that comprised a mid greyish brown sandy loam. No finds or datable material was recovered from the fill.
- 5.4.21 Pit 1008 was located near the centre of the trench. It measured 0.73 m wide and 0.11 m in depth, and continued southeast beyond the limit of the trench. Pit 1008 contained one deliberate backfill (1009) that comprised a mid greyish brown sandy loam. Some fragments of fired clay and animal bone were recovered from the fill.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1.1 The archaeological works fulfilled the aims and objectives set out in the WSI produced by Cura Terrae Ltd in 2025.
- 6.1.2 The results of the archaeological evaluation did not conform to the result of the geophysical survey. The only matching feature was a former field boundary identified in trenches 1 and 2. The possible archaeological features from the geophysical survey were not observed within the trenches, and the features identified in the trenches were not observed on the geophysical survey.
- 6.1.3 A total of eight circular pits were identified in five of the trenches. The diameter of these pits were broadly the same at around 0.80 m. Although the pits varied in depth, they were all similar in that they had vertical sides and flat bases. Pottery, animal bone, fired clay, and iron nails were all recovered from these pits.
- 6.1.4 The purpose of these pits is unclear. While historical mapping from the ADBA (Landgage Heritage 2024) provides no definitive indication of their use, they likely relate to agricultural activity during the post-medieval period or to the site's use as allotment gardens in the twentieth century. The three pits observed in Trench 10 are regular in shape and equally spaced, a pattern that may be reflected across the site. This supports the suggestion that they are related to the former allotment gardens in some way and would be of low significance.
- 6.1.5 Although a pattern cannot be determined with the other pits in trenches 4, 7, and 8, it could be speculated that the pits 704 and 804 may also be aligned and spaced in the same arrangement as the pits in trench 10. Similar to the pits in trench 10, the finds recovered from the pits suggest that they are of post-medieval date, which is of low significance.
- 6.1.6 Pottery recovered from all the pits ranged in date from the late iron age to the post-medieval period. However, the material was highly fragmentary and exclusively recovered from topsoil or deliberate pit backfill layers, likely being associated with the wider region rather than the immediate Site or features. For example, Pit 1004 contained one fragment of pottery from the late iron age, one fragment from the medieval period, and one fragment from the post-medieval period. It was probable that the material had been redistributed by agricultural activities taking place during the post-medieval to modern period. Therefore all the pottery recovered from the site is considered to be residual, in addition to the unclear purpose of the features.
- 6.1.7 The possible trackway identified in the geophysical survey (Lefort Geophysics 2024) was not observed in trenches 9 and 11. No evidence of this could be found in either trench. Sondages were excavated in trench 11 to be certain, and only the green sand bedrock geology was identified at a depth of 1.40 m below ground level.

- 6.1.8 The archaeological evaluation was also successful in gaining a better understanding of the varied natural geology of the Site which mostly conformed with the British Geological Survey (BGS 2025).

7. Archive

7.1 Physical Archive

- 7.1.1 The archive will be deposited with the Wiltshire Museum in Devizes, within six months of the completion of fieldwork, subject to any additional stages of archaeological mitigation.
- 7.1.2 The archive will be prepared to an acceptable standard following national guidelines (ClfA 2020b; Historic England 2015b) and those of the Wiltshire Museum (Wiltshire Museum 2023) under the accession number DZSWS:46-2025.
- 7.1.3 A digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data arising from the archaeological works in accordance with industry standards (ClfA 2020b).

7.2 Digital Archive

- 7.2.1 The digital archive is currently stored at Cura Terrae' Basingstoke office under project number 24495.
- 7.2.2 A digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and made publicly accessible. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, which may be accessed through the ADS website (ADS 2011 and 2022).
- 7.2.3 An OASIS form has been created and copy of the final, approved version of this report will be uploaded to the ADS via the OASIS form.

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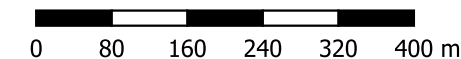
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Figures and Plates



Key

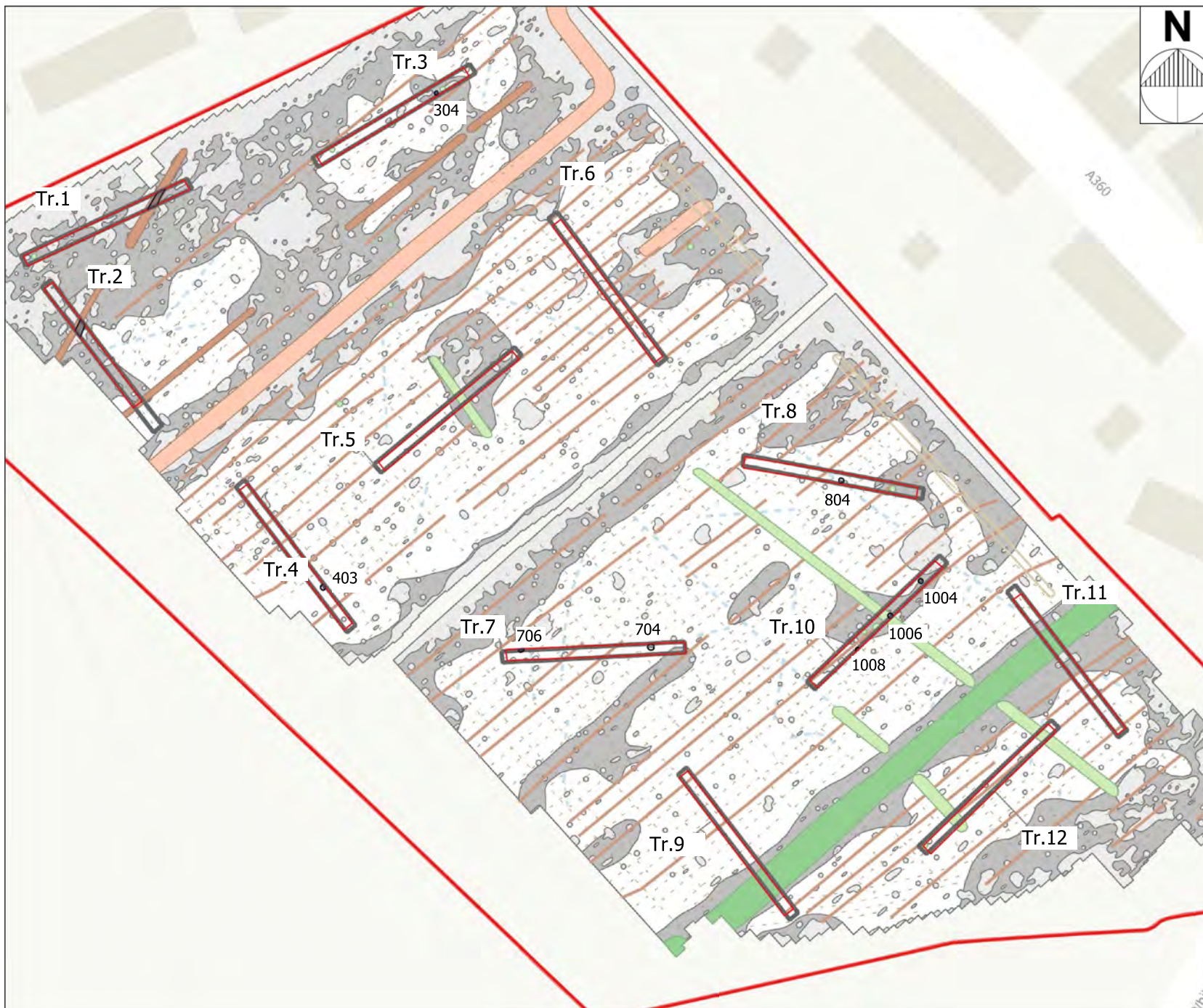
Site Boundary



CG Fry & Son Limited
Land at West Lavington

Figure 1
Site Location

A	24.09.2025	DP	PFP
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
Site centred on:		SU 00405 53256	

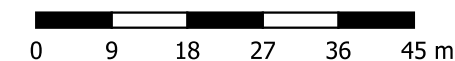


Key

- Site Boundary
- Trench
- Archaeological Feature

Geophysical Survey Results

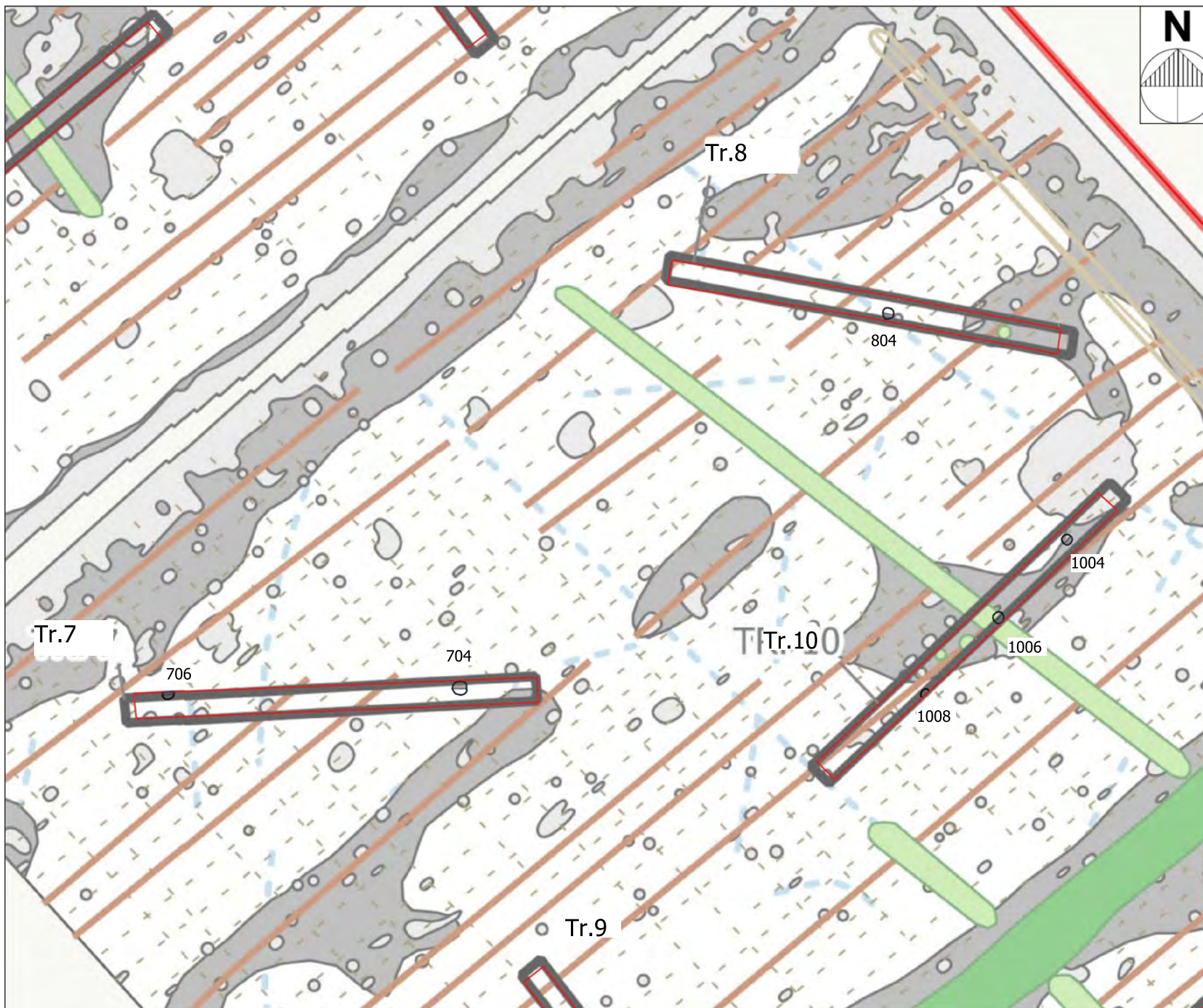
- Archaeology
- Possible Archaeology
- Former Field Boundary
- Ridge & Furrow
- Agricultural
- Ploughing
- Modern Service
- Ferrous
- Increased Magnetic Response
- Trend
- Gradiometer Survey Extents



CG Fry & Son Limited
Land at West Lavington

Figure 2
Trench results overlaid on geophysics interpretation.

A	16.10.2025	DP	PFP
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
Site centred on:		SU 00405 53256	

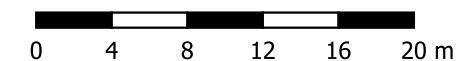


Key

- Site Boundary
- Trench
- Archaeological Feature

Geophysical Survey Results

- Archaeology
- Possible Archaeology
- Former Field Boundary
- Ridge & Furrow
- Agricultural
- Ploughing
- Modern Service
- Ferrous
- Increased Magnetic Response
- Trend
- Gradiometer Survey Extents



CG Fry & Son Limited
Land at West Lavington

Figure 3
Trench results overlaid on geophysics interpretation. Trench 7, 8 and 10.

A	16.10.2025	DP	PFP
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
Site centred on:		SU 00405 53256	



© CURA TERRAE 2025

Trench 4, looking northwest

Plate 1



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Trench 6, looking southeast

Plate 2



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Trench 7, looking east

Plate 3



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Trench 9, looking southeast

Plate 4



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Trench 1 representative section, looking southeast

Plate 5



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Trench 2 representative section, looking southwest

Plate 6



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Trench 10 representative section, looking southeast

Plate 7



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Trench 12 representative section, looking northwest

Plate 8



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Pit 304, looking northeast

Plate 9



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Pit 403, looking northeast

Plate 10



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Pit 703, looking north

Plate 11



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Pit 706, looking north

Plate 12



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Pit 804, looking south

Plate 13



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Pit 1004, looking southeast

Plate 14



Appendix A: Context Summary

Table 2: Context Descriptions

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Provisional Date	Bulk finds	Depth Below Ground Level (bgl)/Vertical Span (m)
101	1	Deposit	-	-	Colour: very dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. ...Composition: fine silty sand.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.30
102	1	Deposit	-	-	Colour: mid brownish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Subsoil			None	0.30 to 0.45
103	1	Deposit	-	-	Colour: light whitish green. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: sandy loam.	Natural geology			-	0.45 +
201	2	Deposit	-	-	Colour: very dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.30
202	2	Deposit	-	-	Colour: mid brownish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Subsoil			None	0.30 to 0.49
203	2	Deposit	-	-	Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy loam.	Natural geology			-	0.49 +
301	3	Deposit	-	-	Colour: very dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.30
302	3	Deposit	-	-	Colour: mid greenish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Subsoil			None	0.30 to 0.42
303	3	Deposit	-	-	Colour: mid greyish green. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy loam. Inclusions: rare flecks to small sub-angular spheroidal chalk, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	0.42 +
304	3	Cut	Pit	304	Shape in plan: regular, circular. Shape in profile: u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: gentle, concave.	Small charcoal pit	Cut of small burning waste/charcoal pit. Contains one fill.	Unknown	-	0.11
305	3	Fill	Pit	304	Colour: dark greenish black. Compaction: dry, cemented. Composition: clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) frequent flecks to small charcoal, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to medium fired wood, evenly distributed 3) occasional flecks of cbm specks, evenly distributed.	Deliberate backfill	Deliberate backfill of small burning waste pit. Waste from a firing event, charcoal, burned wood and possible small specks of burned clay.	Unknown	None	0.11
401	4	Deposit			Colour: dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.29
402	4	Deposit			Colour: light whitish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy loam.	Natural geology			-	0.29 +
403	4	Cut	Pit	403	Shape in plan: regular, sub-oval. Shape in profile: regular, deep u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: flat. Sides: steep, straight.	Pit	Moderate sized pit, likely used to deposit waste material. Full feature not revealed as embedded on trench L.o.E.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	-	0.25

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Provisional Date	Bulk finds	Depth Below Ground Level (bgl)/Vertical Span (m)
404	4	Fill	Pit	403	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: 1) occasional flecks of chalk, evenly distributed 2) rare flecks of charcoal, evenly distributed 3) rare medium to very large sub-rounded sandstone, evenly distributed 4) occasional flecks of cbm specks, evenly distributed.	Deliberate backfill	Deliberate backfill of pit. Dark fill in contrast to white natural, very distinctive, stands out from the rest of the area around. Small frags. of pot together with chopped/butchered animal bone and an Fe object (nail) found within the fill.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	Pot (3), Bone (5), Metal (1)	0.25
501	5	Deposit			Colour: dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.31
502	5	Deposit			Colour: mid greenish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Subsoil			None	0.31 to 0.45
503	5	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish green. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: sandy loam. Inclusions: rare flecks of sub-angular spheroidal chalk, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	0.46 +
601	6	Deposit			Colour: dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.30
602	6	Deposit			Colour: mid greenish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Subsoil			None	0.30 to 0.46
603	6	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish green. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: sandy loam. Inclusions: rare flecks of sub-angular spheroidal chalk, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	0.46 +
701	7	Deposit			Colour: dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.30
702	7	Deposit			Colour: mid greenish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Subsoil			None	0.30 to 0.41
703	7	Deposit			Colour: mid greenish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: sandy loam. Inclusions: rare flecks of sub-angular spheroidal chalk, evenly distributed. Notes: patches of orange and white also.	Natural geology			-	0.41 +
704	7	Cut	Pit	704	Shape in plan: regular, circular. Shape in profile: regular, deep. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: flat. Sides: steep, straight.	Pit	Moderate sized pit, likely used to discard waste material. Contains one fill.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	-	0.25
705	7	Fill	Pit	704	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: 1) moderate flecks of chalk, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks of charcoal, evenly distributed 3) rare medium to very large sub-angular to sub-rounded sandstone, evenly distributed 4) occasional flecks of cbm specks, evenly distributed.	Deliberate backfill	Deliberate backfill of pit containing some material likely discarded as waste. Pottery, animal bone & 2 nails suggests Post-medieval.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	Pot (3), Bone (5), Metal (2)	0.28

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Provisional Date	Bulk finds	Depth Below Ground Level (bgl)/Vertical Span (m)
706	7	Cut	Pit	706	Shape in plan: regular, circular. Shape in profile: regular, deep u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: flat. Sides: steep, straight.	Pit	Moderate sized pit, likely used to discard waste material. Contains one fill.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	-	0.27
707	7	Fill	Pit	706	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: 1) moderate flecks of chalk, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks of charcoal, evenly distributed 3) rare medium angular flint, evenly distributed 4) occasional medium to very large sub-rounded sandstone, evenly distributed 5) rare flecks of cbm, evenly distributed.	Deliberate backfill	Deliberate backfill of small pit. Finds suggests post med. similar as the other pit in this trench.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	Pot (5), Bone (1), Metal (1)	0.27
801	8	Deposit			Colour: dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.32
802	8	Deposit			Colour: mid greenish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty sand.	Subsoil			None	0.32 to 0.56
803	8	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish green. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: sandy loam. Notes: small patches of whitish orange sand in places.	Natural geology			-	0.56 +
804	8	Cut	Pit	804	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: regular, circular. Shape in profile: regular, shallow. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: flat. Sides: gentle, concave.	Pit	Cut of pit that was likely used to discard waste material of post medieval date. Contains one fill.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	-	0.10
805	8	Fill	Pit	804	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy loam. Inclusions: occasional flecks of sub-rounded spheroidal chalk, evenly distributed.	Deliberate backfill	Deliberate backfill of possible waste pit. Small fragments of pottery and animal bone recovered.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	Pot, Bone	0.10
901	9	Deposit			Colour: dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.25
902	9	Deposit			Colour: mid greenish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Subsoil			None	0.25 to 0.32
903	9	Deposit			Colour: mid orangey green. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: sandy loam.	Natural geology			-	0.32 +
1001	10	Deposit			Colour: dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.33
1002	10	Deposit			Colour: mid greenish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty sand.	Subsoil			None	0.33 to 0.38
1003	10	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish green. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: sandy loam.	Natural geology			-	0.38 +
1004	10	Cut	Pit	1004	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: regular, circular. Shape in profile: regular, shallow. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: flat. Sides: steep, concave.	Pit	Pit with unclear function, possibly for waste material. Contains one fill.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	-	0.09

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Provisional Date	Bulk finds	Depth Below Ground Level (bgl)/Vertical Span (m)
1005	10	Fill	Pit	1004	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy loam.	Deliberate backfill	Deliberate backfill of small pit. Contains small fragments of pottery and animal bone.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	Pot, Bone	0.09
1006	10	Cut	Pit	1006	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: regular, circular. Shape in profile: regular, shallow. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: flat. Sides: steep, concave.	Pit	Pit with unclear function but likely used to discard some waste material. Contains one fill.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	-	0.11
1007	10	Fill	Pit	1006	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy loam.	Deliberate backfill	Deliberate backfill of pit. Did not contain any finds but does contain flecks of post-med CBM.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	None	0.11
1008	10	Cut	Pit	1008	Shape in plan: regular, circular. Shape in profile: regular, shallow. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: sharp. Base: uneven. Sides: gentle, concave.	Pit	Pit with unclear function. Continues SE beyond L.o.E. Contains one fill.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	-	0.11
1009	10	Fill	Pit	1008	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy loam.	Deliberate backfill	Deliberate backfill of pit. Contains some fragments of pottery and animal bone.	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901).	Pot, Bone	0.11
1101	11	Deposit			Colour: very dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: fine silty sand.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.35
1102	11	Deposit			Colour: mid greenish grey. Composition: fine silty sand.	Subsoil			None	0.35 to 0.60
1103	11	Deposit			Colour: mid greenish brown. Compaction: dry, cemented. Composition: fine silty sand. Inclusions: rare small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, concentrated mostly at around 1m bgl.	Natural geology			-	0.60 to 1.40
1104	11	Deposit			Colour: light green. Composition: fine sand. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	Bedrock geology			-	1.40 +
1201	12	Deposit			Colour: dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.30
1202	12	Deposit			Colour: mid greenish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.	Subsoil			None	0.30 to 0.48
1203	12	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish green. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: sandy loam.	Natural geology			-	0.48 +

Appendix B: Finds Assessment

Charlotte Britton

Introduction

This report presents an assessment of the finds recovered from an archaeological evaluation at Land West of Lavington, Wiltshire (NGR: 400425, 453250). The work was carried out in advance of a development at the Site (Forshaw-Perring 2025). Excavations recovered 44.4g of animal bone and 72.2g of artefactual material including fired clay, iron, and pottery.

Where chronologically diagnostic, the artefacts recovered dated to the Iron Age to Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods. The assessment includes a discussion of the findings in their regional and chronological context and recommendations for further work.

Methodology

The assessment was carried out on 10th November 2025. The material was recorded and assessed in accordance with national guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019; Barclay et al. 2016; ClfA 2020) and in reference to the prepared Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Forshaw-Perring 2025) and South West England Archaeological Research Framework (2025).

The material was examined visually and was quantified by count and weight, with artefact types and dates recorded.

The animal bone was recorded by context with mammalian taxa identified to species where possible. Colouration of bone was noted, and any evidence of butchery, carnivore/rodent gnawing, and burning were also documented.

Assessment of the pottery fabrics was carried out using a low power microscope at x30 magnification with basic classification (e.g. coarse gritty ware). Reference was made to regional type series for products manufactured in the medieval and early post-medieval periods (McCarthy and Brooks 1988).

Iron nail classifications follow those in Manby (2024).

Outline of the assemblage

The pottery assemblage dated to the Iron Age to Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods, with the animal bone, fired clay and iron being chronologically undiagnostic (Table 3). An archive catalogue of the material was produced in a pro forma excel spreadsheet for inclusion in the Site archive.

Table 3: Material recovered by context with date range, count and weight.

Context	Material	Object type	Date range	Count	Weight (g)
301	Pottery	Coarse gritty ware	12th-14th century?	1	17.3
404	Animal bone	Mammal	Unknown	6	21.9
	Iron	Nail	Unknown	1	2.3
	Pottery	Buff gritty ware	late medieval-post-medieval	3	5.3
		Reduced gritty ware	late medieval-post-medieval	1	1.6
705	Animal bone	Mammal	Unknown	3	16.9
	Iron	Nail	Unknown	3	17.4
	Pottery	Redware-type?	Late 16th-19th century	3	4.6
707	Iron	Nail?	Unknown	1	4.8
	Pottery	Redware-type	Late 16th-19th century	5	7.9
805	Animal bone	Mammal	Unknown	3	3.4
	Pottery	Redware-type	Late 16th-19th century	1	1.9
1005	Animal bone	Mammal	Unknown	1	0.9
	Pottery	Coarse gritty ware	12th-14th century?	1	1.5
		Handmade ware	*PRIA-ROM?	1	2
		Redware-type	Late 16th-19th century	1	3.4
1009	Animal bone	Mammal	Unknown	3	1.3
	Fired clay	Unknown	Unknown	1	2.2
Total				39	116.6

*PRIA-ROM = Pre-Roman Iron Age to Roman

Animal bone

A small assemblage of 16 fragments (44.4g) of animal bone was recovered from pit backfill deposits across the Site, representing solely mammal remains. The material was highly fragmentary and poor to fair in condition, with no complete examples being recovered. The colour of bone was always cream.

The material recovered from pit backfill 704 represented fragments of a large mammal such as a cow or horse. The remainder of the material recovered could not be identified to species but was likely indicative of additional medium to large mammal remains, with a fragment recovered from fill 805 possibly showing evidence of cut marks/butchery, although this was minimal.

Pottery and fired clay

An assemblage of 18 fragments (47.7g) of pottery and fired clay was recovered, which dated to the Iron Age to Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods when chronologically diagnostic. The assemblage included material that was British in origin, with the wares identified being characteristic of south-west England in all periods. The pottery assemblage was highly fragmentary, with no diagnostic sherds being recovered, and no forms being identifiable. The assemblage was exclusively recovered from topsoil or deliberate pit backfill layers and was consistently very fragmentary and highly abraded, with the mean sherd weight for the entire assemblage being just 2.7g. This suggested that the assemblage was entirely residual and had been subject to disturbance since its original deposition.

Iron Age to Romano-British pottery

A single fragment (2g) of hand-built pottery was recovered from backfill 1005, that likely represented a locally produced hand-built vessel, being typical of the regional Iron Age and Romano-British tradition. Although minimal, the fragment had a sandy quartz- and grog-tempered fabric, with common stone inclusions. It is now widely accepted that such hand-built vessels were being produced and used alongside wheel-made counterparts during the Late Iron Age and Roman periods (Evans 2024). Due to this, the example recovered by the current evaluation was ascribed a broad date range.

Medieval pottery

Two sherds (18.7g) of pottery that likely dated to the medieval period were recovered from topsoil 301 and pit backfill 1005. The pottery was British in origin and represented probable regionally produced utilitarian wares, although was highly fragmentary. The sherds represented buff and reduced coarse gritty wares that had quartz gritted fabrics and where decoration survived, displayed patchy green and yellow glazes. Although not identifiable to ware, the pottery fit well within the local ceramic tradition of the medieval period, specifically between the 12th and 14th centuries, being indicative of examples produced in the local region (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 334–40). The example recovered from topsoil 301 displayed sooting on the outside body, suggesting that it had been held over a fire during use.

Late medieval to post-medieval pottery

An assemblage of 14 sherds (24.7g) of pottery was recovered, that dated between the late medieval and post-medieval periods. The pottery was mostly British in origin and included solely utilitarian wares. The earliest material included buff and reduced gritty wares, displaying quartz gritted fabrics, and remnants of glaze on the outside body, being indicative of material produced in the local region between the medieval and post-medieval periods (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 461–462) being similar to the coarse gritty wares recovered. The remainder of the assemblage consisted of Redware-type wares, sometimes with green-brown glazes on the inside body, being indicative of examples produced within the local region between the late 16th and 19th centuries (*ibid.*, 459).

Fired clay

A single fragment (2.2g) of fired clay was recovered from backfill 1009 that consisted of a reduced to brown featureless fragment that was undiagnostic. This made it difficult to distinguish between deliberate or accidental firing. It was clear from the fabric colour and lack of vitrification that the clay had not been subject to extremely high temperatures and so was most likely derived from a domestic hearth, oven or other similar process, rather than an industrial structure such as a kiln or furnace. It was also probable that the fragment represented pottery that had been abraded to a state where form was no longer identifiable.

Ferrous metalwork

An assemblage of five fragments (24.5g) of iron was recovered, likely representing four separate nails.

The nails had varying lengths (between 36–55mm) and included straight and s-shaped examples. Only one had a head present, that was round and flat, with all examples having a square shank, and most displaying chisel tips, with a single pointed example also present. The nails all fit within Manby's 'general nail' classification (Manby 2024), indicating they were chronologically undiagnostic, although it was most likely that all of them dated to the post-medieval period, based on their appearance.

Statement of potential

The finds assemblage was associated with the storage and preparation (cooking) of foodstuffs during the Iron Age to Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Animal bone and nails were also present.

The material was highly fragmentary and exclusively recovered from topsoil or deliberate pit backfill layers, likely being associated with the wider region rather than the immediate Site or features. It was probable that the material had been redistributed by agricultural activities taking place during the post-medieval to modern period.

The assemblage was likely derived from domestic communities inhabiting the wider area rather than the immediate Site, such as the known Iron Age and Roman settlements located in the vicinity, a local medieval settlement that potentially extended into the Site and associated with agricultural activities taking place on the Site during the post-medieval period (Forshaw-Perring 2025, 5-6).

Conclusions and recommendations

The finds recovered by the evaluation at Land West of Lavington, Wiltshire demonstrated Iron Age to Roman, medieval and post-medieval period activity around the Site, although the assemblage was unlikely to have been associated with the immediate Site or features it was recovered from. The material was minimal and highly fragmentary. Further analysis of the material would therefore not helpfully contribute to our understanding of the Site, or research objectives set out in the South West England Archaeological Research Framework (2025) or WSI (Forshaw-Perring 2025). No further work could be meaningfully undertaken on the material, and it may be discarded on completion of the project.

This report and associated data spreadsheet should be retained as part of the Site archive and integrated into any Site-wide grey literature or publication reporting.

References

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Evans, C. (2024). *Late Iron Age and Roman Resource Assessment*. Available at: <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/resource-assessments/late-iron-age-and-roman/#section-12> accessed on 10.11.25.

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Appendix C: OASIS form

OASIS ID (UID)	curaterr1-537657
Project Name	Evaluation at Land at West Lavington, Wiltshire
Sitename	Land at West Lavington, Wiltshire
Sitecode	24495
Project Identifier(s)	
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Cura Terrae
Project Dates	13-Oct-2025 - 16-Oct-2025
Location	Land at West Lavington, Wiltshire NGR: SU 00425 53250 LL: 51.27839394304123, -1.995290921050265 12 Fig: 400425,153250
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Wiltshire Local Authority District: Wiltshire Parish: West Lavington

Project Methodology	The evaluation comprised of 12 trenches that represented a 3% sample of the 2.1 ha Site. The trenches were spread evenly across the Site and some targeted a small number of anomalies of archaeological potential that was identified in the previous geophysical survey.
Project Results	A total of eight pits were identified in five of the trenches. Although the pits varied in depth, they were all similar in that they had vertical sides and flat bases. Finds from these pits dates to the post-medieval period. The purpose of these pits is not entirely clear. These pits likely relate to agricultural use of the site during the post-medieval period, or perhaps relate to the use of the site as allotment gardens during the twentieth century. The three pits in Trench 10 demonstrates that these pits are regular and of equal distance from each other, which may be the case for the rest of the site. Therefore, these pits could likely originate from the use of the site as allotment gardens.
Keywords	
Funder	Private or public corporation CG Fry & Son Ltd
HER	
Person Responsible for work	Oliver Good
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

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