

Land at First Lane Whitley Melksham Wiltshire

Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

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Bristol: August 2026



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Document Title	Land at First Lane, Whitley, Wiltshire
Sub Title	Report on an Archaeological Evaluation
Project Code	AAL 26-27.915
Site Location	As above, SN12 8RL
National Grid Reference	NGR ST 86162 70523
Planning Authority	Wiltshire County Council
Planning Reference	Pre-Application
Museum Name	Wiltshire Museum, Devizes
Accession Number	DZSWS:32-2026
OASIS ID	Avonarch2-544712
Document Author	Nathan Campbell
Date of Preparation	August 2026

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Abstract

Avon Archaeology were commissioned by Bristol and Bath Heritage Consultancy (BBHC) to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on a parcel of land south of First Lane, Whitley, Melksham. The project consisted of four trenches, each of 15 x 1.8 metres, which targeted potential anomalies identified by geophysical survey.

Apart from modern land drains, three of the trenches were archaeologically negative. An ephemeral ditch was identified in Trench 2, from which ceramics dating from the later Medieval period were recovered. Slag, including a furnace bottom, was also recovered from the ditch; however, no evidence of in-situ Iron working was observed during the evaluation and the industrial debris is likely to have been re-deposited from offsite. The ditch appears to have been partially reopened/re-cut in the post-Medieval period, although it is not shown on available historic mapping, suggesting it had fallen out of use by the mid-19th century.

No further archaeological work is advised for this site.



1 Introduction

- 1.1 Avon Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Bristol & Bath Heritage Consultancy (BBHC) to undertake a programme of Archaeological Evaluation by trial trenching on a parcel of land south of First Lane, Whitley, Wiltshire, centred on NGR ST 86162 70523.
- 1.2 The criteria and methodology for the project were set out in an overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by BBHC, which was accompanied by a second document setting out AAL's specific methodology, personnel and practice (AAL 2026). Both were approved by Wiltshire County Council.
- 1.3 The evaluation, as set out in the WSI, comprised 4 trenches, each 15 x 1.8 metres, which were sited to target potential features indicated by geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2026).
- 1.4 The work was conducted in accordance with the relevant guidelines for archaeological fieldwork projects issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeology. Specifically, the overarching controlling document in this respect was the Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation, issued in Dec. 2023. The project also followed both the guidelines for archaeological projects set out in MoRPHE (Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, 2015), and was underpinned by the guidelines set out at national level in the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework, as most recently revised in Dec. 2023). In addition, AAL also adhered to local guidelines as formally expressed in the Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Assessment and Fieldwork in Wiltshire and Swindon Borough (WCAS 2025), which to a large extent is based on existing CIfA guidance notices for various types of archaeological projects.
- 1.5 The project has been entered into the OASIS archaeological database under the reference avonarch2-544712. The final project report will be uploaded to OASIS, and then to the ADS; and a digital archive will be uploaded directly to ADS. A copy of this report will be submitted to Wiltshire County Council and an entry detailing the project will be placed within the Historic Environment Record (entry number pending).



2 Site Location Geology and Topography

- 2.1 The site is located to the south of First Lane in the village of Whitley, Wiltshire, centred on NGR ST 88683 65982. It encompasses a roughly rectangular parcel of land of 0.5 hectares (**Figures 1 & 2**). It is bounded by First Lane to the north, by the B3353 to the east, by pasture to the south and by both pasture and the gardens of a house fronting First Lane to the west. The nearest spot height recorded on the OS landline is on the B3353, to the east of the site, and has a value of 46.4m aOD. A water course runs roughly SE-NW through the centre of the site, effectively bisecting it.
- 2.2 The British Geological Survey's online Geindex records the underlying geology of the site as Oxford Clay Formation (Mudstone) of the Oxfordian division of the Jurassic epoch (BGS, 2026).

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 An overarching WSI was produced by BBHC (2026), which covers the historical and archaeological setting of the site in detail, itself a summary of findings established in a Heritage and Archaeology Statement prepared for the project (BBHC, 2026a). Additionally a geophysical survey of the site has been undertaken (AS, 2026).
- 3.2 Whitley is mentioned before the Norman Conquest in a charter from the King of Wessex granting land at Bradford on Avon, and the religious community there, to Shaftesbury Abbey (Sawyer 1968). Whitley appears in that charter as on the boundary between two adjacent estates. It appears that Whitley lay at the very north-west corner of Melksham Hundred, and only just within it.
- 3.3 Whitley appears in the Domesday Book (1086) as a very small, 1-hide, estate. It indicates that all of the arable land was at that point on the demesne, held 'in hand' by the manorial lord, not leased out to tenants, and worked on behalf by slaves and cottagers. No actual villagers are mentioned in 1086, suggesting the only people on and working the land were low status.



- 3.4 Historically, Whitley was never a parish in its own right, but a hamlet or tithing of Melksham. Its boundary position is directly reflected in the mid-19th century tithe map, which shows it at the very north-western corner of Melksham parish, with the parish of Atworth immediately to its west. Whitley was united with the nearby settlements of Beanacre and Shaw to form the Parish of Melksham Without in 1894.
- 3.5 Very little archaeological work has been undertaken in proximity to Whitley. An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken in 2022 by Thames Valley Archaeological Services to the west of Top Lane, but found no buried archaeology. However, an undated ring ditch (MWI79015) along with a number of linear ditches were located by geophysical survey between 575 and 975 metres to the east.
- 3.6 An Archaeological Evaluation was carried out by Avon Archaeology Ltd in 2025 at a site just 500m NE of First Lane, where a small assemblage of poorly preserved Roman potsherds was uncovered, indicating at least some level of activity in the area during the Roman period (AAL 2025).
- 3.7 Lidar and aerial photography has identified a number of probable hut platforms and possible hollow ways on the north side of Top Lane.
- 3.8 In the wider area a Roman roadside settlement (MWI177178-MWI77183) is located approximately 1.3km to the north east, along the line of the Roman road that links Speen to Bath (MWI687). The Roman road itself passes 525m to the north of the site.
- 3.9 The Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (WHER) indicates that the site contains traces of medieval or post medieval ridge and furrow, which are part of an extensive system in the wider area (MWI73999).
- 3.10 Whitley House, 150m to the west (MWI1700) and Westlands Farm, 475m north-east (MWI1703), of the site were constructed in the 17th and 18th centuries respectively, but it is quite likely that these are merely the successors to earlier, medieval houses, on the same sites.



- 3.11 The preceding geophysical survey (AS, 2026) encompassed an area roughly twice the size of the evaluation site, extending further to the south. It recorded numerous anomalies including: a former building and associated trackway located to immediate south of the evaluation site; former and previously mapped field boundaries; and a collection of positive anomalies (indicative of buried archaeology), two of which displayed linear, 'ditch like', qualities (see **Figure 3**).

4 Methodology, Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims and objectives of the project were to investigate features indicated by geophysical survey. The purpose of the evaluation was to inform pre-application planning decision making in relation to a proposal to develop the site for residential occupancy.
- 4.2 The aims and methodology for the project were set out in the two WSI documents (BBHC 2026 & AAL 2026), in summary the evaluation was conducted as follows:
- Prior to excavation the areas of all trenches were surveyed with a cable avoidance scanner.
 - Trenches were opened as straight sided cuttings by a mechanical excavator utilising a toothless grading bucket. Each trench was 15 x 1.8 metres.
 - Machine excavation ceased when significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered, after which cleaning and excavation was undertaken using hand tools.
 - Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using AAL's context record sheets. Sections were drawn at 1:10. All features were located and planned using a Topcon Hiper SR survey grade GPS rover. Aerial drone photography was undertaken to produce rectified images, which were utilised to produce detailed plans.
- 4.3 The specific objectives for this project, as set out in the BBHC's WSI (BBHC 2026), were as follows:



- Establish the presence/absence, survival quality, chronology, phasing and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- Record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered;
- Assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of any artefactual and ecofactual remains associated with archaeological deposits;
- Produce a publicly accessible report(s) on the results of the works, for deposition with the Wiltshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

5 Results of the Evaluation

- 5.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trenches at locations, chiefly targeting geophysical anomalies (**Figure 3**). Below are summary accounts of the significant archaeology, for full context descriptions see Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figure 3, Plates 4 & 5)

- 5.2 Trench 1 was the westernmost trench, aligned NE-SW. It was positioned to investigate a potential linear feature at the southernmost point of the trench.
- 5.3 A distinct deposit, (101), of mid orangey brown clay silt, with occasional CBM and charcoal fragments, was found at the southern end of the trench. It overlay two field drains, (102) & (103). The drains were cut into the natural substrate (105), which was orange-brown clay. The upper stratigraphy of the trench comprised a layer (104) of mid-brown clay silt subsoil, which was absent at the southern end of the trench where deposit (101) was encountered, and finally by roughly 0.2m of friable mid brown silty topsoil (100).
- 5.4 The location and alignment of deposit (101) and land drain [102] are consistent with a former field boundary shown on the tithe map (1838), which was also identified during the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**).



Trench 2 (Figures 3 & 4, Plates 11 & 12)

- 5.5 Trench 2 was located adjacent to and to the north of Trench 1, and was aligned NW-SE. It was positioned to target potential linear ditch features at either end as indicated by geophysical survey (**Figure 3**).
- 5.6 The anomaly at the northern end of the trench was revealed to be a ditch, [202]. It ran roughly E-W, and extended beyond the limits of the trench. A hand excavated intervention revealed the ditch to be 0.62 m deep, at least 1.90 m wide, and to contain two fills, (203) and (204). A possible re-cut, [208], was also identified cutting the uppermost fill.
- 5.7 The bottom fill, (203), was a light yellowish grey sandy primary silt, which contained one sherd of Medieval pottery, as well as occasional charcoal inclusions. This material is likely to represent primary silting within the ditch.
- 5.8 The second fill, (204), was a dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and burnt stone inclusions, as well as a sherd medieval pottery. Additionally, this fill also contained several fragments of iron slag, including a slag cake from a bloomery furnace (**Plate 14**). The slag could have derived from the Medieval period; however it is worth noting that the slag cake was found at the very top of fill (204), so it is therefore difficult to allocate this artefact to (204) with complete certainty. It must be stressed that fill (204) was not a well sealed context, so it is possible that the slag cake was only pushed into the surface of the context.
- 5.9 Fill (204) appears to have been truncated by overlying cut [208], although it appears to respect the E-W alignment of [202] and is almost certainly a re-cut. This recut was filled by a dark yellow-brown silty clay, (205), which contained several small pieces of slag, burnt stone and charcoal, as well as post-medieval/modern CBM and pottery. Within fill (205) there was also at least one small, heavily abraded, residual Medieval pot sherd.
- 5.10 The base of a land drain, (206), was also identified cutting (205) on a NW-SE alignment. It is most likely contemporary with the modern land drains



that were found in other trenches. It is only just visible as a small, stony, white streak going along the surface of the ditch.

- 5.11 Historic mapping does not show any features in the location of ditch [202] however, the geophysical survey identified short linear anomaly in this area of consistent with its alignment.

Trench 3 (Figure 3, Plate 1)

- 5.10 Trench 3, located east of the water course which bisected the site and was aligned NE-SW.
- 5.11 Trench 3 was archaeologically negative, other than two land drains, [303] and [304].
- 5.12 Land drain [303] cut through the southernmost corner of Trench 3, was slightly curved and roughly aligned E-W so that water would run towards the water course that bisects the site. The presence of large sherds of modern ceramic in the land drain indicates that it was most likely made in the 19th Century.
- 5.13 The second land drain, [304], was positioned just north of [303] and was also roughly aligned E-W and likely dated to the 19th Century, as evidenced by pieces of modern ceramic and glass. However one odd feature of this land drain was that it forked into two separate channels.
- 5.14 It is also worth noting that land drain [304] correlated with the linear anomaly identified by the geophysics survey (**Figure 3**).

Trench 4 (Figure 2, Plates 2 & 3)

- 5.15 Trench 4 was the easternmost trench; it was aligned NW-SE and ran perpendicular to Trench 3.
- 5.16 Trench 4 was archaeologically negative, with the exception of two land drains; one, [404], aligned NW-SE and running along the south side of the trench, with the other, [403], roughly aligned NE-SW and cutting through the southernmost corner of the trench. Both of these land drains were similar in composition to the land drains in Trench 3, and are likely



contemporary. Additionally, land drain [403] is on a similar alignment to land drain [304] in Trench 3, and could potentially be the same feature.

- 5.17 Land drain [403] also corresponds with a linear anomaly identified by the geophysics survey (**Figure 3**).

6 The Finds

Pottery & CBM

6.1 *Introduction and methodology*

A small assemblage of four pottery sherds weighing 17g and six fragments of CBM weighting 207g were recovered from five defined archaeological contexts. The assemblage was rapidly assessed in-house by Gareth Dickinson.

- 6.2 The pottery was recorded using selected recommendations outlined in Pottery Standards (Barclay *et al.* 2016). Sherds were sorted macroscopically into provisional fabric groups based on the principal inclusions present in the clay, firing colour and the presence/absence of glazing.

- 6.3 The entire sorted assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. The data tabulated along with a provisional spot date for each fabric.

- 6.4 No ancillary research has been carried out as part of this assessment to check for other similar assemblages from the area or to put the assemblage into its local or site context.

6.5 *Pottery*

Three sherds are provisionally identified as cooking vessels of medieval date. The sherds from contexts (203) and (204) were un-abraded and likely reflect the date of the associated fills. In contrast the sherd from context (205) was highly abraded and found in association with a fragment of 19th century glazed pottery.



6.6 The fabric of all three of the medieval sherds consisted of a fine quartz sand with occasional inclusions of oolitic limestone.

6.7 The post-medieval/modern sherds both had earthenware fabrics and were glazed.

6.8 *Ceramic building material (CBM)*

All fragments of CBM recovered appear to date to the post-medieval/modern period. The assemblage included: two brick fragments from context (205); a brick or tile fragment from context (303); and two probable pantile fragments from context (304).

6.9 *Potential and recommendations*

This is a very small mixed assemblage with pottery of medieval and post-medieval/modern date present. No further work is recommended at present. The medieval sherds should be retained for future reference but the post-medieval/modern pottery and CBM could be discarded.

Industrial Debris

6.10 *Introduction and methodology*

The metal working debris recovered from the evaluation comprised twenty fragments of slag weighing a total of 2278g. The assemblage was rapidly assessed in-house by Gareth Dickinson.

6.11 All of the material submitted for assessment was examined visually and recorded following standard guidance (Historic England 2015). The material was categorised based on appearance, and weighed.

6.12 No ancillary research has been carried out as part of this assessment to check for other similar assemblages from the area or to put the assemblage into its local or site context.

6.13 *Results*

The majority of the assemblage by weight comprised a single Fe slag cake, synonymous with a bloomery furnace (1762g). It was recovered from



context (204). As above, the slag cake is indicative of bloomery iron smelting. The shallow profile of the base is suggestive of a tapped bloomery process, where the excess slag is 'tapped off' the base of the furnace. Tapping became common during the Roman period, although returned to non-tapped methods in the earlier Medieval period. Tapping was re-introduced in the later early Medieval period and continued to be used through the Middle Ages until the adoption of the blast furnace in the 15th century. The other categories of slag are less diagnostic but include a fragment of probable furnace slag and a tap slag fragment.

6.14 *Conclusions and Recommendations*

The evaluation yielded an assemblage of bloomery iron smelting slag. The form of the slag indicates that it was produced in a tapping furnace. As discussed above this method of smelting was commonly used in the Roman and high/late Medieval periods. The slag was not recovered from in-situ furnaces, instead it appears to be waste material, which has been deposited into a ditch from elsewhere. It is also worth considering that the slag cake was found at the surface of an unsealed context, which therefore makes it difficult to assign it to a context with complete certainty. Pottery recovered from the ditch suggests a late Medieval date.

- 6.15 Whilst a late medieval ditch, later re-cut in the 19th century does indicate human activity on the site, it appears to be isolated and perhaps related to the man-made water course that bisects the site. As such the evaluation suggests that the site has low archaeological value.

7 Discussion & Conclusions

- 7.1 With the exception of ditch [202], the anomalies that were identified during the geophysical survey all appeared either be unrelated to human activity or were revealed to be modern features.



- 7.2 Ditch [202] was seemingly a medieval feature, as evidenced by the potsherds that were found within its associated fills. It is likely that this feature was open for a prolonged period and was filled in first by primary silting, (203), then an accumulation of silts and industrial waste, (204), which contained medieval pottery, several chunks of a slag cake from a bloomery furnace. The latter was almost certainly residual and not indicative of smelting on the site. It appears that the ditch was re-cut in the 19th century. As discussed above, the ditch does not appear on historic mapping, suggesting it was not a significant feature at the time of the 19th century re-cut.
- 7.3 The remaining trenches were archaeologically negative, with the exception of some early modern land drains that were likely to have been laid during the later 19th to 20th Century. Some of these land drains roughly corresponded with the potential anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.
- 7.4 The evaluation found limited evidence for past human activity on the site, which at the very least indicates that during the later medieval period there was some metallurgic industry in the area. No other significant evidence was found, suggesting the site has a low archaeological potential.
- 7.5 No further archaeological work is advised for this site.



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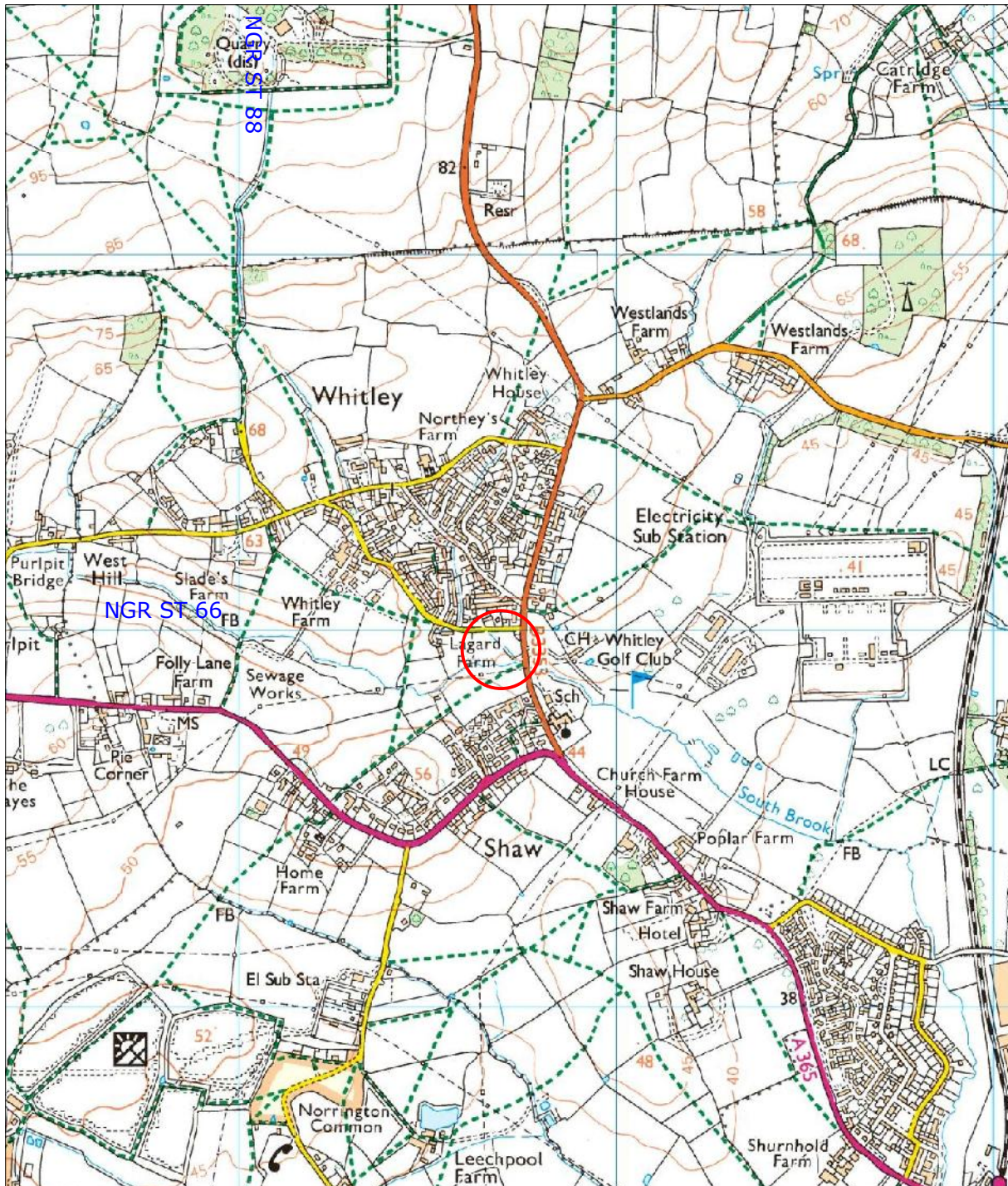
First Aid for Finds. Rescue and United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Archaeology Section, 3rd Edition

Figure 1

Site Location Map Grid Lines at 1000m Intervals



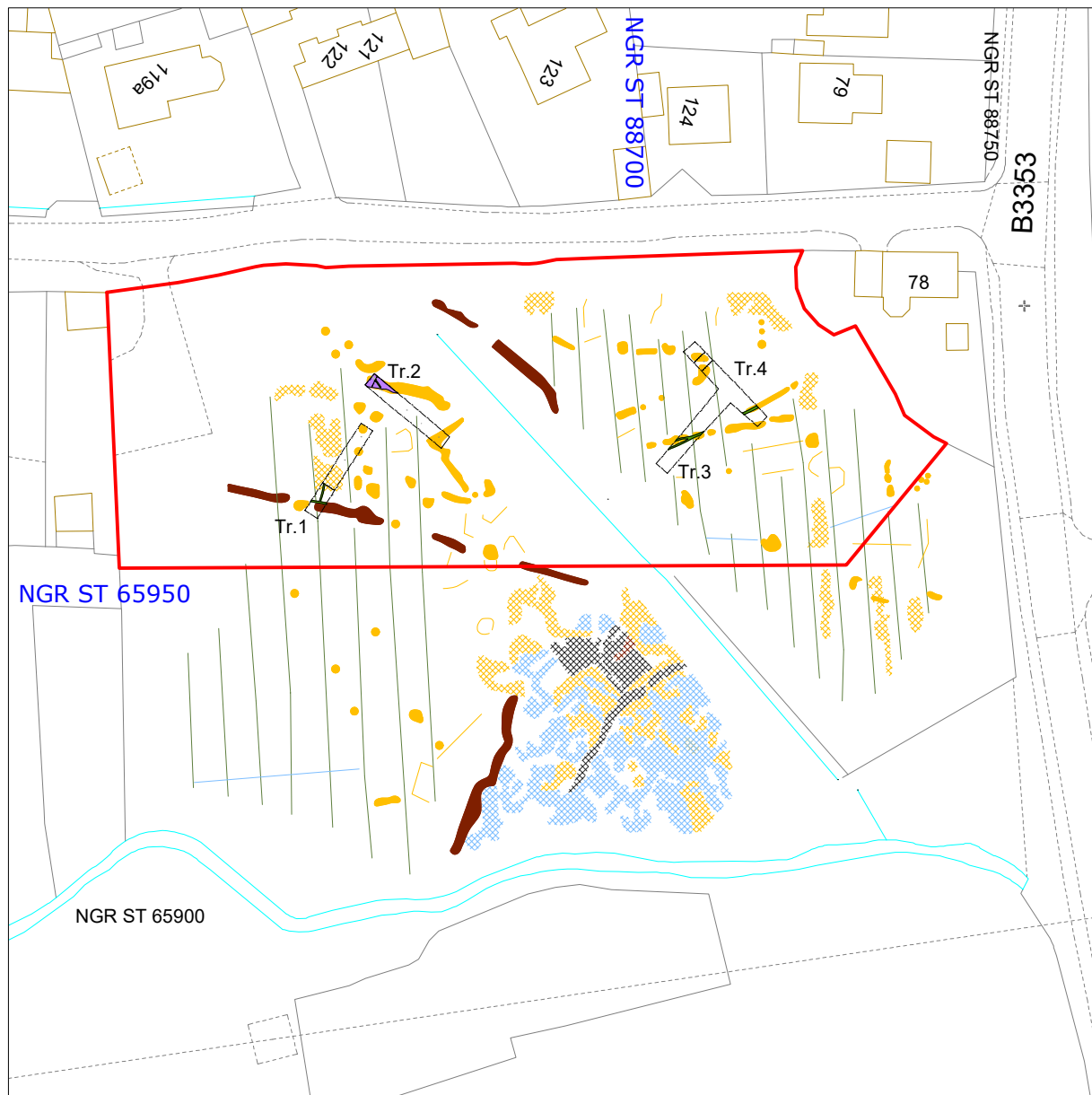
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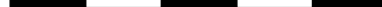
Figure 2

Site Plan showing Red Line Boundary, Location of Evaluation Trenches and Results of the 2026 Magnetometer Survey



General Key

- Red Line Boundary
- Excavated Evaluation Trench

0  50m

Geophysics Key

- Positive linear anomaly
- Negative linear anomaly
- Linear anomaly - former field boundary
- Linear anomaly - ridge and furrow
- Discrete positive anomaly - pit like feature
- Negative anomaly associated with structural remains
- Positive anomaly associated with structural remains
- Positive anomaly - magnetically enhanced material
- Negative anomaly - material of low magnetic susceptibility

Figure 3

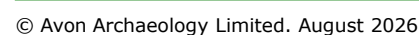
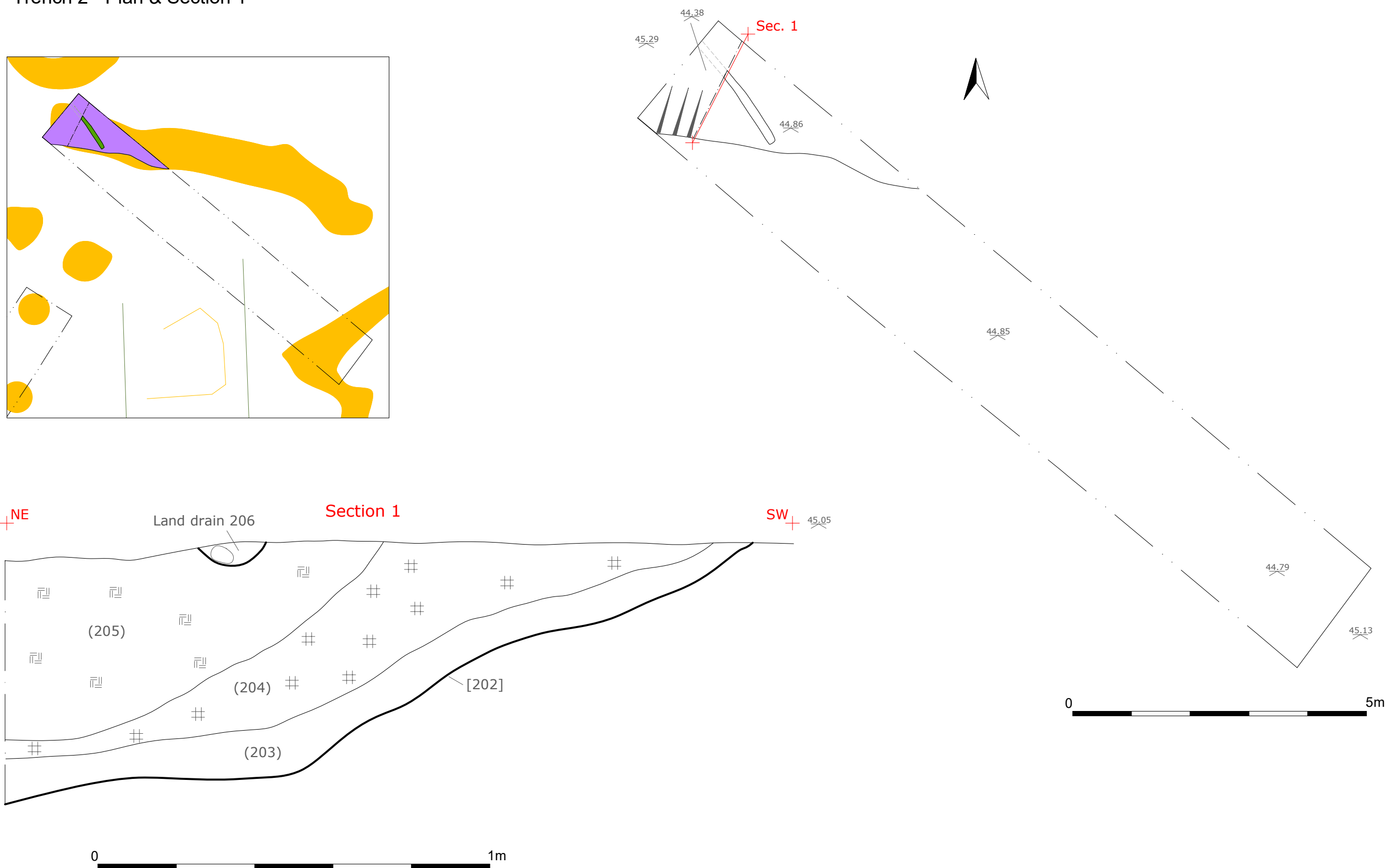


Figure 4

Trench 2 - Plan & Section 1



Plates



Plate 1: Northeast facing shot of Trench 3.
1m x 1m scales.



Plate 2: Northwest facing shot of Trench 4.
1m x 1m scales.



Plate 3: Southeast facing shot of Trench 4.
1m x 1m scales.



Plate 4: Northeast facing shot of Trench 1.
1m x 1m scales.



Plate 5: Southwest facing shot of Trench
1. 1m x 1m scales.



Plate 6: Northwest facing shot of slot in ditch
[202].

1 metre scale.



Plate 7: North facing shot of slot in ditch [202].
1 metre scale.



Plate 8: Southeast facing shot of slot in ditch
[202].



Plate 9: Southeast facing shot of slot in ditch [202].

1 metre scale.



Plate 10: East facing shot of slot in ditch [202].

1 metre scale.



Plate 11: Southeast facing shot of Trench 2. 1m x 1m scales.



Plate 12: Northwest facing shot of Trench 2. 1m x 1m scales.



Plate 13: East facing shot of furnace base
in situ.



Plate 14: West facing shot of furnace base
in situ 1 metre scale



Plate 15: Drone shot of Trenches 3 and 4. 1m x 1m scales.



Appendix A

Context Tables

Trench 1				
Notes	Depth to the top of natural: 0.44 m Orientation: NE-SW			
Context	Type	Description/Interpretation	Dimensions	Date
100	Topsoil	Mid brown fine grained silt. Friable.	T= 0.20 m	N/A
101	Deposit	Area of mid-orangey brown clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments, small stones and charcoal flecks. Found at the southern end of the trench. Overlies two land drains. Seems to fill a hollow in (104), which is absent where (101) is found.	Extends beyond length of excavation (LOE). T= 0.20 m	Modern
102	Land drain	SSE-NNW oriented, limestone gravel filled field drain. Below (101).	Extends beyond LOE. W= 0.20 m	Modern
103	Land drain	Roughly N-S aligned linear projecting from north side of [102]. Filled with dark brown clayey silt, with occasional limestone chunks.	Extends beyond LOE.	Modern
104	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown clayey silt. Underlies (101).	T= 0.22 m	N/A
105	Natural	Orangey brown clay mudstone. Frequent manganese flecking. Dense and hard.	N/A	N/A

Trench 2				
Notes	Depth to the top of natural: 0.39 m Orientation: NW-SE			
Context	Type	Description/Interpretation	Dimensions	Date
200	Topsoil	Mid brownish grey silty loam. Friable.	T= 0.17 m	N/A
201	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay. Overlies natural (207) and ditch (202).	T= 0.22 m	N/A
202	Cut	Cut of E-W aligned ditch. Diffuse edges, moderately sloped sides, flattish base. Gradual break of slope to top and base. Only half seen; extends beyond LOE. Cuts through natural (207).	W= + 2 m L= + 4.5 m D= 0.60 m	N/A
203	Fill	Bottom fill of [202]. Primary silt. Light yellowish grey, sandy silt. Soft. Occasional charcoal flecks. Finds retrieved: at least one piece of medieval potsherd.	T= 0.12 m	Medieval (12 th /13 th Century)
204	Fill	Second fill of [202]. Dark brownish grey, sandy silt. Soft. Frequent charcoal and burnt stone inclusions. Finds retrieved: medieval potsherd, slag, one bloomery furnace base. Overlies (203), underlies (204).	T= ranges from 0.5 m to 0.25 m.	Medieval (12 th /13 th Century)
205	Fill	Dark yellowish brown, firm, silty clay. Likely to be a deliberate redeposit of natural and some waste material.	T= 0.45 m	Possibly early modern.



		Finds retrieved: CBM (red brick), one heavily abraded Medieval potsherd, one sherd of glazed 19 th Century pot.		
		Fills (208).		
206	Land drain	Stone filled land drain. Cuts through subsoil (201) as well as the top of [202].		N/A
207	Natural	Orangey brown clay mudstone. Frequent manganese flecking. Dense and hard.		N/A
208	Cut	Recut of ditch, going through (204) and filled by (205). E-W aligned cut. Concave, slightly flat base. Sharp break of slope at the top.		

Trench 3				
Notes	Depth to the top of natural: 0.27 m Orientation: NE-SW			
Context	Type	Description/Interpretation	Dimensions	Date
300	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam. Very dry and crumbly.	T= 0.14 m	N/A
301	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty clay. Very dry and compact. Rare disturbance by roots.	T= 0.13 m	N/A
302	Natural	Light brownish orange clay. Frequent manganese flecks. Very dry and compact. Cut by two land drains; (303) & (304).		N/A
303	Land drain	Slightly curved, E-W aligned stone filled land drain. Contained modern ceramic.		19 th Century
304	Land drain	Stone filled land drain, roughly E-W aligned, that forks into two channels. Contained modern ceramic and glass.		19 th Century

Trench				
Notes	Depth to the top of natural: 0.20 m Orientation: NW-SE			
Context	Type	Description/Interpretation	Dimensions	Date
400	Topsoil	Dark brown loam. Very dry and crumbly.	T= 0.10 m	N/A
401	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty clay. Very dry and compact.	T= 0.10 m	N/A
402	Natural	Light brownish orange clay. Frequent manganese flecks. Very dry and compact. Cut by two land drains, (403) & (404).		N/A
403	Land drain	Stone filled land drain, aligned NW-SE. Runs along most of the length of the trench.		19 th Century
404	Land drain	Stone filled land drain, aligned NE-SW. On a similar alignment to, and possibly the same as, (304).		19 th Century



Appendix B

Finds Tables

Finds Table 1: Pottery

Cxt.	Tr.	No.	Weight (g)	Comments	Date
203	2	1	8	Unglazed sand tempered ware.	Med c.12 th C – 14 th C
204	2	1	7	Unglazed sand tempered ware.	Med c.12 th C – 14 th C
205	2	2	2	Greenish yellow glaze. Pale red/pink earthenware fabric	18 th C - 20th C
303	3	1	36	Reddish brown glaze. Pale red/pink earthenware fabric	18 th C - 20th C
TOTAL		4	17		

Finds Table 2: CBM

Cxt.	Tr.	No.	Weight (g)	Comments	Date
205	2	2	39	Red brick fragments	PM/MOD
303	3	1	88	Orange brick fragment	PM/MOD
304	3	2	44	Probable pantile fragments	PM/MOD
TOTAL		6	207		

Finds Table 3: Industrial Debris

Cxt.	Tr.	No.	Weight (g)	Comments	Date
204	2	6	2261	1 x bloomery furnace base. Rounded base with deep organic impressions and occasional charcoal inclusions. 1 x furnace slag. Curved base with shallow organic impressions and frequent charcoal inclusions. 1 x tap slag fragment. Rivulets of slag on the upper face and rough base. 3 x undiagnostic slags.	Undiagnostic
205	2	14	17	14 x undiagnostic small slag fragments	Undiagnostic
TOTAL		20	2278		

Finds Table 4: Glass

Cxt.	Tr.	No.	Weight (g)	Comments	Date
304	3	1	8	Moulded green glass bottle top fragment.	PM
TOTAL		1	8		

Finds Table 5: Metal

Cxt.	Tr.	No.	Weight (g)	Comments	Date
205	2	1	12	Heavily cored iron object. Broken bar form	Undiagnostic
TOTAL		1	12		



Finds Table 6: Misc

Cxt.	Tr.	No.	Weight (g)	Comments	Date
205	2	1	3	Coal fragment	PM
TOTAL		1	3		



Appendix 3

OASIS Summary for avonarch2-544712

OASIS ID (UID)	avonarch2-544712
Project Name	Evaluation at Land at First Lane, Whitley
Sitename	Land at First Lane, Whitley
Sitecode	AAL915
Project Identifier(s)	AAL915
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Avon Archaeology Limited
Project Dates	17-Aug-2026 - 18-Aug-2026
Location	Land at First Lane, Whitley NGR : ST 88678 65976 LL : 51.39270735074664, -2.164112872702336 12 Fig : 388678,165976
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Wiltshire Local Authority District : Wiltshire Parish : Melksham Without
Project Methodology	Standard Trench evaluation. Four trenches, each 15m x 1.8m
Project Results	The project consisted of four trenches, each 15 x 1.8 metres, which targeted potential anomalies identified by geophysical survey. Three of these trenches turned out to be blank, while Trench 2 contained an ephemeral ditch, which had been filled in with deposits dating from the High Middle Ages, before being covered and levelled with post-Medieval deposits. Finds from this ditch were indicative of Medieval metallurgical industry, including the slag cake from the base of a bloomery furnace. However, these finds were residual, and were likely the result of waste being dumped in the ditch. No other substantial archaeological evidence was found. No further archaeological work is advised for this site.
Funder	Private or public corporation Bristol and Bath Heritage Consultancy
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Kevin Potter
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Wiltshire Museum; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

Report generated on: 14 Sep 2026, 16:30