



Land off Salisbury Street, Amesbury, Wiltshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



**Land off Salisbury Street
Amesbury, Wilts**

**Post-excavation Assessment
And
Updated Project Design**

Prepared on behalf of
The Co-operative Group
PO Box 53
New Century House
Manchester
M60 4ES

by
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
SP4 6EB

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Contents

	<i>Summary</i>	<i>iii</i>
	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>iv</i>
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Project Background.....	1
	1.2 Site Location, Description and Geology	1
	1.3 Archaeological Background.....	2
2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
3	EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY	3
4	RESULTS	4
	4.1 General.....	4
	4.2 Roman	4
	4.3 Late Saxon / Early Medieval features (Fig. 2).....	4
	4.4 Medieval features (Fig. 2).....	5
	4.5 Post-medieval features (Fig. 2).....	5
	4.6 Modern features (Fig. 2)	6
	4.7 Undated features	6
5	THE FINDS	7
	5.2 Pottery.....	7
	5.3 Ceramic Building Material.....	9
	5.4 Worked and Burnt Flint.....	9
	5.5 Stone	9
	5.6 Metalwork.....	10
	5.7 Other Finds	10
	5.8 Animal Bone	10
6	PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	13
	6.1 Aims.....	13
	6.2 Palaeo-environmental summary	13
	6.3 Introduction and environmental samples taken	13
	6.4 Assessment Results; methods and data	13
	6.5 Charred Plant Remains and Charcoals	13
	6.6 Charred plant remains	13
	6.7 Charcoal	15
	6.8 Land and fresh/brackish water molluscs.....	15
	6.9 Small animal bones	15
7	POTENTIAL, RESEARCH AIMS AND METHOD STATEMENT	17
	7.1 Archaeological potential	17
	7.2 Updated research aims and objectives	18
	7.3 Method statements and recommendations for further work	19
	7.4 Finds.....	19
	7.5 Charred plant remains	20
	7.6 Charcoal	20
	7.7 Land Snails and fresh/brackish water molluscs	20
8	PUBLICATION PROPOSAL, RESOURCES, AND TASKLIST	21
	8.1 Publication proposal	21
	8.2 Resources	21
	8.3 Tasklist.....	22
9	STORAGE AND CURATION	23
10	REFERENCES	25
11	APPENDIX	27
	11.1 List of Archaeological Features	27

List of Figures

Cover	The site, looking north
Figure 1	Location and trench layout
Figure 2	Features in trenches 4 and 5
Figure 3	Features in relation to the Flitcroft Map of 1726 AD

List of Plates

Plate 1	Northern boundary wall of Redworth House overlying Saxon ditch 519. Looking east.
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List of Tables

Table 1	Summary of fieldwork events
Table 2	Finds totals by material type
Table 3	Quantification of Late Saxon and medieval pottery by ware type
Table 4	Taphonomic characteristics of the assemblage
Table 5	Species percentages
Table 6	Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal
Table 7	The project team
Table 8	Tasklist

Land off Salisbury Street Amesbury, Wilts

Summary

In July 2005 Wessex Archaeology undertook an excavation on behalf of the Co-operative Group on land near the centre of Amesbury, prior to redevelopment as a supermarket. A Watching Brief during the early part of the construction work took place in April 2006.

The excavation revealed several features of probable late Saxon date, including a number of aligned ditches (property boundaries), a dog burial within a pit and other smaller pits. Some of these features can be correlated with recorded documentary evidence. Medieval features include an east to west aligned ditch just to the north of the present day northern boundary wall of the former Redworth House, other ditches and some intercutting pits. In addition several other ditches and some quarry pits can be assigned to the post-medieval and modern periods.

A small amount of evidence for earlier activity includes worked flint, and a few residual Roman and early/middle Saxon sherds.

The report assesses the potential of the fieldwork results for further analysis and publication. It highlights a series of updated research aims for the project and outlines a proposed programme of work to complete a publication report and archive for the project.

Land off Salisbury Street Amesbury, Wilts

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The fieldwork was carried out by David Godden, Steve Beech, Jane Roberts, Andy Sole and Ken Lyden. The finds and environmental evidence was assessed by Lorraine Mephram and Chris Stevens. The illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman. This report was compiled by David Godden and Alistair Barclay.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Paul McCulloch, Paul White and Alistair Barclay.

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Land off Salisbury Street Amesbury, Wilts

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 In July 2005 Wessex Archaeology undertook an excavation and watching brief on behalf of the Co-operative Group at land off Salisbury Street, Amesbury, Wilts prior to redevelopment as a supermarket (NGR 415500 141350) (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 Following on from an evaluation Wiltshire County Council recommended that an archaeological excavation would be necessary as part of a mitigation strategy. In 2005 a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology and approved by Helena Cave-Penny acting on behalf of Wiltshire County Council. Fieldwork events are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of fieldwork events

Fieldwork event	Date	Contractor	WA ref
Evaluation	1996	Wessex Archaeology	42612
Evaluation	May 2005	Wessex Archaeology	
Excavation	July 2005	Wessex Archaeology	
Watching Brief	April 2006	Wessex Archaeology	

1.2 Site Location, Description and Geology

- 1.2.1 The town of Amesbury lies within the valley of the meandering River Avon and is built on the river gravels that form a promontory around which the river curves on the western side.
- 1.2.2 The site (**Fig. 1**) was located to the south-east of Amesbury High Street within a sub-circular area of land bounded by Flower Lane on the west and south sides and Salisbury Street to the north. The area of redevelopment was irregular in shape, approximately 100 m by 50 m, bounded by Flower Lane to the south, Salisbury Road to the east, the northern boundary wall of the now demolished Redworth House to the north, and buildings to the west. It had a 15 m wide corridor in the north-west corner reaching through to Salisbury Street. The development is to include approximately 40 m more land to the north of the aforementioned boundary wall of Redworth House.
- 1.2.3 Two areas were opened up for archaeological investigations (**Fig. 1**). The largest, Trench 4, was a rectangle 40 m by 10 m in the north-west of the development. The other, Trench 5, was a rectangle 10 m by 2 m in the south-west corner of the development. This was a total area of approximately 0.05 hectares.

- 1.2.4 The development area was very gently sloping. The ground level varied between 69-70 m above ordnance datum (aOD).
- 1.2.5 At the time of the excavation the site was rather overgrown with the concrete oversights of several demolished buildings visible on the ground.
- 1.2.6 The natural ground encountered on site was of several types of sandy river gravel.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 Within the historic core of Amesbury little evidence of prehistoric activity has been found. A Palaeolithic hand-axe was discovered near the High Street in 1938.
- 1.3.2 In 1996 a small archaeological evaluation consisting of two trenches was carried out by Wessex Archaeology (WA 1996) nearby (**Fig. 1**). The two trenches were located c. 30 m east of excavation Trench 4. In the northern Trench 1 two ditches were revealed at the base of the archaeological sequence. One (**104**) was aligned north-west to south-east and the other (**109**) north-east to south-west. No finds were recovered from them but they were both probably Saxon. Another feature (**215**) was revealed at the south end of Trench 2 at the base of the archaeological sequence. Only the north edge of the feature was revealed so as to leave its shape and character unresolved. It did, however, contain a large sherd of Saxon pottery.
- 1.3.3 There has been no evidence found for Roman activity within the historic core of the town.
- 1.3.4 Although Amesbury is known to have developed into a sizeable settlement by the 10th century, there is little archaeological evidence for the Saxon period. There have been isolated small finds recovered. A very large north to south aligned ditch possibly dating to the Saxon period was found on land to the rear of the Antrobus Arms, Church Street (Hulka and Valentin 1999).
- 1.3.5 The only extant building from the medieval period is the parish church. The prosperity of the town in this period was largely dependent on the visitors and trade generated by the priory on the western side of town. A market place is known to have existed in Amesbury since at least the 13th century and was bounded by the High Street to the north-west and by Salisbury Street to the north-east. The other extents of the market are conjectural. Pits and pottery were found to the rear of the Antrobus Arms, Church Street (Hulka and Valentin 1999).
- 1.3.6 Wessex Archaeology had carried out an evaluation consisting of three test trenches on the same site in May 2005 (see **Table 1**). This showed Saxon activity in the north-west corner of the site and this was where the excavation that is the subject of this report was focussed.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 The aims and objectives for the excavation were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 2.1.2 The excavation was to establish the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character and condition of any archaeological remains within the areas of the development that were investigated.
- 2.1.3 Of special interest was the discovery of Saxon pottery, rare in Amesbury, in the test trenching phase undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 1996. Features from this period were carefully sought in all subsequent phases of fieldwork (see **Table 1**).

3 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The outlines of the two trenches were marked out and the areas checked for services using the Cable Avoidance Tool.
- 3.1.2 Approximately 0.6 m of overburden was stripped using a 360° tracked machine under constant archaeological supervision. It was transported to the south of the site by dumper and stockpiled. The stockpiled material was inspected for finds.
- 3.1.3 The exposed ground was examined for archaeological features. All pre-modern features were excavated by hand and recorded on Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* sheets. A monochrome and colour 35 mm film photographic record was kept. Selected digital photographs were also made.
- 3.1.4 Samples were taken from selected features to provide possible palaeo-environmental information.
- 3.1.5 A digital survey was made that included the outlines of the two trenches, the outlines of the archaeological features and investigative slots made into the features. Several boundary lines around the development were also recorded in order to tie the survey in with maps of the area.
- 3.1.6 The deeper features were backfilled for safety reasons at the end of the investigation.
- 3.1.7 The excavation took place between the 18th of July and the 4th of August 2005.
- 3.1.8 A subsequent Watching Brief took place in April 2006.

4 RESULTS

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 There were three types of natural ground encountered on the site. The most common was **402**, a mid orangey brown silty sand and sub-angular flint mix. Pale orangey yellow silt **423** and pale grey silty sand and sub-angular flint mix **424** were only found at the north end of Trench 4.

4.2 Roman

- 4.2.1 Four pieces of Roman pot were recovered, one from the late Saxon/early medieval ditch **507** in the southern Trench 5 and three pieces from the late Saxon/early medieval pit **518**. They were all residual.

4.3 Late Saxon / Early Medieval features (Fig. 2)

The large pit

- 4.3.1 A large, probably circular pit **518** was found underlying Saxon ditch **523**. It was 2.5 m diameter and 2 m deep with steep-sloping sides and a concave base. A dog was buried on the base of the pit. The dog skeleton was not recovered due to safety considerations. The relationship between the pit and ditch **523** could not be seen as this had been destroyed by recut **511** that produced a shallower pit centred on and integral with, this ditch. Common sense would suggest that pit **518** would have predated ditch **523** if it was to avoid collecting runoff from the ditch from where they would have touched. It could, however, have been dug as a large sump to collect water from the ditch.

The ditches

- 4.3.2 There were five late Saxon/early medieval ditches revealed. The most northerly pair, **522** and **523** were aligned north-west to south-east. The largest, **523**, was 1.3 m wide and 0.85 m deep. It was integral with recut pit **511** and extended further south-east until it terminated in shallow pit **604** later recut as **607**. This south-easterly end seems to have been respecting the east to west boundary line marked by ditch **519**.
- 4.3.3 Ditch **522** lay approximately 5 m north-east of ditch **523** and was 0.6 m wide and 0.35 m deep. Its north-western end was obscured by post-medieval pit **482**.
- 4.3.4 The large east to west aligned ditch **519** at the south end of Trench 4 had late Saxon/early medieval pot in its lowest fill and may have been originally cut in this period. It was 2.1 m wide and 1.1 m deep with steep-sloping convex sides and a narrow flattish base. The asymmetrical fills in the ditch suggested that a bank had existed on its northern side. The sharp profile and bank suggest it may have had a defensive purpose as well as to mark a boundary. The upper fills in the ditch contained post-medieval material showing how long it had been maintained. Above the unfilled ditch its line was marked to the present day by the northern boundary wall **448** of Redworth House (**Pl. 1**) made of chalk and mortar and carrying a small rain-shedding roof. In places this had been repaired with modern breeze blocks.

- 4.3.5 The two ditches in Trench 5, **503** and **507**, had either been flat and shallow or had been heavily truncated. Ditch **503** was 0.8 m wide, 0.15 m deep and was filled with material, **502**, that formed a 0.1 m deep extensive layer underneath the subsoil in this part of the site. The ditch was aligned east to west.
- 4.3.6 The other ditch, **507**, was situated at the southern end of Trench 5 and was of similar dimensions and level to ditch **503**. Its fill, **506**, also appeared to be part of a general layer lying under the subsoil. Ditch **507** was aligned north north-east to south south-west.

The pits and postholes

- 4.3.7 Two shallow pits, **426** and **428** in Trench 4 were dated to the late Saxon/early medieval period.
- 4.3.8 There were two pits, **484** and **495**, revealed at the south end of Trench 4. If ditch **519** had been constructed with a bank on its northern side the placing of **484** suggests that it predated the ditch.
- 4.3.9 Postholes **487** and **477** were a similar size and shape. They were at a similar offset and may have respected contemporary ditch **523**.
- 4.3.10 Posthole **405** to the north of Trench 4 may also have dated to this period. All the postholes of this period were dated only on the recovery of one small piece of pot in each.

4.4 Medieval features (Fig. 2)

- 4.4.1 Two ditches and a group of intercutting pits could be dated to this period.
- 4.4.2 At the southern end of Trench 4 a ditch, **462**, was revealed. It was aligned east to west and lay 2 m to the north of and parallel to earlier ditch **519**. Its position suggests it could have run along the north side of a possible bank associated with ditch **519**. It had a noticeably rectangular-shaped eastern terminus.
- 4.4.3 The other ditch of this period, **489**, was noted near the north of Trench 4. It was aligned north-west to south-east like earlier ditches **522** and **523** but was less substantial with only a 2 m length surviving between post-medieval truncation by **425**. It may have been a third parallel late Saxon ditch (along with **522** and **523**) that was still in use in the medieval period.
- 4.4.4 A group of intercutting pits **524** was revealed on the western boundary of Trench 4. The group comprised pits **497**, **540**, **542** and **544** which covered an area of 2.5 m by 2.5 m although the western extent of the group was not revealed. The pits were 0.5 m deep on average. The edges of pit **497** reflected the general north-west to south-east alignment of the property lines in this area.

4.5 Post-medieval features (Fig. 2)

- 4.5.1 Pits **520**, **526**, **403** and **410** probably lay in a line just to the north of the north-eastern boundary of the property marked as "82" on the Flitcroft map (Fig. 3).

4.5.2 Pit **533** dated to the post-medieval period. It was sited just to the north of the medieval pit group **524** and extended beyond the edge of the excavation.

4.6 Modern features (Fig. 2)

4.6.1 The largest modern feature, **425**, had a plan of an irregular cross shape. It was 7 m in diameter and over 1.3 m deep although not bottomed. It may have been a robbed out building or small scale quarrying at the south-eastern end of the property marked "84" on the AD1726 map of Henry Flitcroft (**Fig. 3**). Only the southern part of extensive cut **417** was revealed. It also lay within "84". The shallow ditch **419** marked the curving boundary shown on this map.

4.6.2 At the extreme north of the site part of a modern pit **536** was revealed.

4.6.3 Modern pit **616** was revealed to the east of the main excavation area during the Watching Brief.

4.6.4 A group of five sub-square postholes **546** at the south of Trench 4 took its east to west alignment from the property boundary originally marked by ditch **519** which lay 2.5 m to the south. The group comprised **465**, **475**, **491**, **492** and **493**.

4.7 Undated features

4.7.1 Kidney-shaped feature **499** was probably a tree-throw hole. It was undated although certainly pre-modern.

5 THE FINDS

- 5.1.1 The site has produced a finds assemblage of moderate size, amongst which animal bone and pottery are the best represented categories in terms of quantity. The primary interest here lies in the fact that this is the first assemblage of any size of late Saxon/early medieval date (10th-12th century AD) excavated from the town.
- 5.1.2 Table 2 provides a summary quantification of all finds by material type and context. All finds data, including those from evaluation, excavation and watching brief on the site, are held on the project database (Access).

Table 2: Finds totals by material type (number / weight in grammes)

Material	Evaluation	Excavation	W/Brief	TOTAL
Pottery	21/284	464/7141	26/493	511/7918
<i>Romano-British</i>	-	4/59	-	4/59
<i>Early / Middle Saxon</i>	-	2/18	-	2/18
<i>Late Saxon / Medieval</i>	20/284	403/5097	12/111	435/5492
<i>Post-Medieval</i>	-	55/1967	15/382	70/2349
Ceramic Building Mat.	-	30/2282	7/270	37/2552
Fired Clay	-	11/145	3/48	14/193
Clay Pipe	-	9/27	4/6	13/33
Stone	9/44	13/3017	-	22/3061
Flint	-	31/991	-	31/991
Burnt Flint	-	6/254	-	6/254
Glass	-	11/402	2/7	13/409
Slag	-	5/577	-	5/577
Metalwork (no. objects)	4	46	-	50
<i>Copper Alloy</i>	-	1	-	1
<i>Iron</i>	4	44	-	48
<i>Lead</i>	-	1	-	1
Animal Bone	162/1576	1191/9059	57/461	1410/11,096
Shell	-	10/94	-	10/94

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the site, and largely consists of material of late Saxon/early medieval date (10th to 12th centuries), with a few residual Romano-British sherds, and a small amount of post-medieval material.
- 5.2.2 The whole assemblage has been quantified within each context by ware type. The presence of rims and other diagnostic sherds has been noted, and spot dates recorded on a context by context basis.

Romano-British

- 5.2.3 Romano-British sherds came from two features – one coarse greyware from ditch **507** and three sherds of Oxfordshire colour coated fineware from pit **518**, in both cases residual in later contexts.

Early/Middle Saxon

- 5.2.4 Two sherds of organic-tempered ware are dated as early to middle Saxon (5th to 8th centuries). Both are small, abraded body sherds, and both occurred residually in later contexts (ditches **489** and **503**).

Late Saxon and Medieval

- 5.2.5 The late Saxon and medieval assemblage contains a number of different ware types, most of which are identifiable at least to source area, and which reveal a number of geographically distinct sources of supply to the town. Totals by type are given in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Quantification of late Saxon and medieval pot by ware type

Ware	No. sherds	Weight (g)
Calcareous ware	254	3320
Cheddar-type ware	1	30
Flint-tempered ware	24	362
Kennet Valley wares	16	95
Laverstock-type coarseware	17	115
Laverstock-type fineware	4	55
Michelmersh-type ware	80	1065
Other fineware	1	37
Other sandy wares	32	381
West Wilts ware	6	32
TOTAL	435	5492

- 5.2.6 Most of these wares fall within a broad date range of 10th to 12th centuries. Most common are calcareous wares, which appear here exclusively in jar forms, with simple, everted rims. Oolitic inclusions within some of these wares suggest an origin in the north of the county, although no production centres of this date are known. Similar calcareous wares, in similar jar forms, have been found at Trowbridge, Wilton and Market Lavington (Mephram 1993; Andrews *et al.* 2000; Mephram 2006).
- 5.2.7 Alongside the calcareous wares are sherds of wheelthrown, reduced sandy wares of Michelmersh-type, in jar forms, comparable to products of a recently excavated kiln in that village (Mephram and Brown forthcoming). One example of curvilinear tooling was observed, as recorded on jars from Wilton (Andrews *et al.* 2000), and one example of a body sherd with multiple open-circle stamps, not so far paralleled elsewhere. Sherds of similar sandy wares in the same contexts, but of a slightly different texture, with oxidised surfaces (recorded here as 'other sandy wares'), may also be Michelmersh-type products; they include body sherds with applied, stamped strips in the same manner as some of the Michelmersh-type spouted pitchers (Addyman *et al.* 1972).
- 5.2.8 In the same contexts are a small number of sherds containing patinated flint inclusions; only one vessel form is present, a jar with everted, simple rim. Again, similar fabric types are known from Trowbridge, Market Lavington and Wilton. A single sherd of a glazed, decorated tripod pitcher in Laverstock-type coarseware was recorded, from pit **520**. These pitchers have been previously recorded as 'South East Wiltshire pitchers' (e.g. Vince 1981), but the similarity of fabric type with the products of the 13th century Laverstock kilns suggests an earlier production centre in this area.
- 5.2.9 The largest groups of 10th-12th century pottery came from ditch **523** (103 sherds), pit 518 (85 sherds) and its recut **511** (143 sherds).
- 5.2.10 Other wares occur in much smaller quantities, and some have a slightly later date range (or at least a currency extending later than the 12th century). Other flint-tempered and calcareous-/flint-tempered wares potentially fall

within two ceramic traditions, from the Kennet Valley and from west Wiltshire. Wares of 'Kennet Valley' type have a wide distribution across west Berkshire and north-east Wiltshire, and have a lengthy currency, from at least the 11th century through to the 13th century; one possible source is in the Savernake Forest, where the place-name *Crockerstrope* is recorded (Vince 1997, 65). 'West Wiltshire' wares have a distribution centres on Warminster and were probably products of the medieval Crockerton industry; they have a similarly lengthy currency through the medieval period (Smith 1997). 'West Wiltshire' wares are generally micaceous, and have been distinguished on that basis here, although the distinction between these and the 'Kennet Valley' wares is not always clear.

- 5.2.11 Laverstock-type wares are also present in small quantities; as well as the tripod pitcher already noted, there are coarseware jar forms of 12th/13th century type, some scratchmarked, and a few 13th century glazed and decorated finewares (ditch **463**, pit **497** and pit recut **511**). One other glazed fineware, probably also of 13th century date, is of unknown source (pit **497**).

Post-Medieval

- 5.2.12 The remainder of the assemblage (71 sherds) is post-medieval, and comprises sherds of coarse earthenwares (redwares, and Verwood-type earthenware from east Dorset), tinglazed earthenware, English stoneware, creamware and modern refined whitewares. A large proportion of the post-medieval assemblage came from cut **425**.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

- 5.3.1 Most of the ceramic building material consists of fragments of medieval flat roof tile, in characteristic coarse, poorly wedged, pale-firing fabrics. One post-medieval unglazed floor tile and two post-medieval brick fragments came from cut **425**.

5.4 Worked and Burnt Flint

- 5.4.1 The worked flint assemblage consists of 31 pieces, all hard hammer struck, with a potential date range of Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age. Raw materials consist almost entirely of locally-derived pale grey to brown gravel flint; condition ranges from fresh to edge-damaged; some have a light grey patina.
- 5.4.2 The majority of the assemblage comprises flakes and broken flakes which are not chronologically distinctive. There are two possible Late Bronze Age cores – large, crude, and irregular - although both may simply be dressed nodules; retouched pieces are limited to a pair of notched flakes.
- 5.4.3 A few pieces of burnt, unworked flint were also recovered, of unknown date and origin.

5.5 Stone

- 5.5.1 The stone includes one whetstone (pit 536) and ten lava quern fragments (one from ditch 416 and nine from evaluation trench 2). The rest of the stone shows no obvious signs of working but could represent building materials – two pieces of micaceous sandstone, and two of shelly limestone, could

derive from roof tiles. Other pieces are of limestone, in various shapes and sizes.

5.6 Metalwork

5.6.1 Metalwork includes objects of copper alloy, iron and lead. Only one copper alloy object was recovered – a small, rectangular buckle of post-medieval date (subsoil **401**). The iron objects are all heavily corroded, and some remain unidentified at this stage. Most appear to represent nails and other structural items, but there are at least three knives (one from ditch **416**, two from pit recut **511**), one possible awl (pit **518**) and one rectangular buckle (pit **482**). The single lead object is a small, tapering strip of unknown function (pit **526**).

5.7 Other Finds

5.7.1 Other finds recovered from the site comprise small quantities of post-medieval clay pipe stems, undiagnostic fired clay, post-medieval glass bottle/jar, ironworking slag, and oyster shell.

5.8 Animal Bone

5.8.1 Although the whole animal bone assemblage from all stages of fieldwork has been scanned, quantifications in **Tables 3-4** include only the bone from the excavation. Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion, and therefore specimen counts (NISP) given here may differ from the absolute raw fragment counts in **Table 2** (above). There may also be some discrepancies when bone is fragile may fragment further after initial quantification. No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category. No attempt was made to identify ribs or vertebrae (except the atlas and axis) to species, although large numbers of these bones were noted where they occurred.

Table 4: Taphonomic characteristics of the assemblage; proportions of bones as a percentage of NISP rather than raw counts

	Graved	Loose teeth	Unidentified	Butchery	Burnt	Measure	Age	Total (NISP)
Late Sax/ Early Med	6	8	64	14	3	6	15	936
Med	9	0	59	18	0	5	23	22
Post-med	8	0	72	20	0	0	28	25
Undated	0	33	67	44	11	0	0	9
Total	6	8	64	14	3	6	15	992

5.8.2 The bones originated mainly from features of late Saxon/early medieval date, some of which contained earlier Romano-British pottery, and with few from later periods (**Table 4**). The largest quantities of bone originated from pits **511** and **518**, and ditch **523**, from more than one fill in each of these features.

5.8.3 Approximately 95% of the 992 bones were in good condition, with 49 in excellent condition (mainly from the post-medieval period) and only four in poor condition (from a single post-medieval cut and one fill in a late Saxon/

early medieval pit). Correspondingly, the proportion of teeth lost from the jaw by erosion or fragmentation was low in the post-medieval assemblage, although the proportion of unidentified bone was high in this period, perhaps partially due to scavenger activity destroying the bone, and butchery fragmenting the bones into less easily identifiable pieces (also reflected in the absence of any post-medieval bones complete enough to be measured).

- 5.8.4 Gnawing was present throughout and will have affected the assemblage to an extent, although at a relatively low level. Loose teeth are particularly well-represented in the undated contexts, and this portion of the assemblage also contains no measureable or ageable bone, perhaps a result of fragmentation from reworking or the methods of butchery or deposition. The late Saxon/early medieval assemblage contained a relatively high proportion of loose teeth, but these were often in the same context as the jaw from which they had been lost, and fragmentation probably occurred post-depositionally.
- 5.8.5 Approximately a third of bones could be identified, and the species proportions varied by phase, from a late Saxon/early medieval predominance of sheep/goat (sheep but no goats positively identified) to a majority of cattle in the later periods of occupation (**Table 5**). The proportion of pigs is relatively high, especially in the late Saxon/early medieval period, and this is also the period where a variety of other species are represented, probably due to the larger size of the assemblage. Fish, however, were only observed in the medieval assemblage, and one cat jaw was recovered from a Post-medieval pit that contained early medieval ceramic.

Table 5: Species percentages (as proportion of identified bones)

	Horse	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Dog	Deer	Cat	Bird	Fish	Total identified (NISP)
Late Sax/ Early Med	2	16	53	24	2	1	0	3	0	336
Med	0	44	11	22	0	0	0	0	22	9
Post-med	0	43	29	14	0	0	14	0	0	7
Undated	0	33	33	33	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	2	17	51	24	2	1	0	3	1	355

- 5.8.6 The number of ageable bones is relatively high, partially due to the large number of sheep/goat mandibles, and includes foetal individuals. Several bones could be sexed, 55 measured, and ten with pathological modifications can facilitate interpretation of animal treatment and health.
- 5.8.7 Butchery marks were seen on a large number of bones, mainly consisting of helical fractures from marrow extraction, chops to portion the carcass and a few cuts from filleting and disarticulation. Some ribs showed splintering consistent with snapping of fresh bone during consumption. A small but significant number of bones had been burnt, and the position and extent of scorching on some could be used to indicate cooking activity. An odd texture and appearance, similar to that documented as 'ivoried' but more translucent, almost marbled, was observed on 51 bones from late Saxon/early medieval pits and ditches. This effect has been noted on many sites and linked to cooking, although other interpretations have been suggested, and it is interesting that it is so prevalent on the late Saxon/early medieval bones here.

- 5.8.8 Several deposits contained a large proportion of bones from the head and feet which may be butchery waste, and several deposits of articulated lower limbs indicate direct, rapid deposition (perhaps also primary butchery waste) into some features.
- 5.8.9 Three worked fragments were recovered from two late Saxon/early medieval ditch segments; object 36 is a polished piece with rounded flattened ends, one roe deer-sized radius had been worked into a wedge shape and a piece of long bone had been fashioned into a rod.

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Aims

6.1.1 The assessment of samples taken from the evaluation, excavation and a final watching brief were undertaken to; demonstrate the presence, range and diversity of remains present and assess their potential to aid with understanding the activities and economy associated with the archaeological evidence and isolate samples, where appropriate, for further analysis and reporting.

6.2 Palaeo-environmental summary

6.2.1 The samples were consistently rich in charred cereal grains, mainly barley and free-threshing wheat, but also produced evidence for the cultivation of peas and broad beans probably reflecting dense and intensive occupation during this period in the vicinity of the site. There were few remains of chaff or weeds. The samples showed little variation between them.

6.3 Introduction and environmental samples taken

6.3.1 Six bulk samples were taken during the evaluation, eight from the assessment phase and one during the final watching brief. All of the samples all came from probable late Saxon to early medieval/Saxon-Norman features, including eight ditches, three came from pits, and a further from a possible beam slot. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

6.4 Assessment Results; methods and data

6.5 Charred Plant Remains and Charcoals

6.5.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereobinocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 6**) in order to present data to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains and assess their potential to address the project and subsidiary aims. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.5.2 The flots were generally large and rich in charred remains that was reasonably well preserved. Many of the samples contained high numbers of both large and fine roots that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement, reworking or the degree of contamination by later intrusive elements.

6.6 Charred plant remains

6.6.1 The samples were all broadly similar with little variation between them. This is especially true of the ditch samples. All the samples contained ample evidence for cereal remains, predominately free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* sl). Remains of rye (*Secale*

cereale) were also present, particularly in ditches **503** and **407**, with grains in pit (**608**). Chaff remains were rare and consisted predominately of occasional rachis of rye and free-threshing wheat. In the latter case a single well-preserved fragment could be identified as a hexaploid e.g. bread-wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) or club-wheat (*Triticum compactum*). Many grains of oats (*Avena* sp.), were also present in the samples. These were generally large and possibly represent the cultivated oat (*Avena sativa*), rather than the wild oat (*Avena fatua*). No floret bases which allow such distinction were seen during the assessment, however, it is notable that no awn fragments that are more indicative of the wild species were recovered.

- 6.6.2 Other crop remains included occasional seeds of broad bean (*Vicia faba*) or pea (*Pisum sativum*), and with respect to wild food resources shells of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*).
- 6.6.3 Weed seeds were generally poorly represented in the samples, they included mainly large seeded species that are commonly recorded as grain contaminants, in particular vetches/wild pea (*Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp.), but also corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), persicaria (*Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia*) knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and knotted hedge parsley (*Torilis* sp.). Smaller occasional seeds of species such as stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), meadow grass (*Poa* sp.) and orache (*Atriplex* sp.) were also recovered.
- 6.6.4 A very small amount of mineralised material was present within a few samples. Such remains had become mineralised through the presence of calcium phosphate, and so may indicate the presence of cess, or may relate to the presence of rotting fish. Little of this material was identified with the exception of seeds of knotted hedge parsley (*Torilis* sp.) from ditch **115** and pit (**608**). Pit (**608**) also produced probable mineralised seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*).
- 6.6.5 The finds are all in keeping with the late Saxon to early medieval date (Greig 1991). The presence of stinking mayweed in several of the samples can be taken as an indicator of the cultivation of clay soils. The species becomes increasingly prevalent throughout the Saxon period, assumingly associated with the introduction of heavy and mouldboard ploughs that facilitated the cultivation of previously less manageable heavy clays (Stevens 2004).
- 6.6.6 The similarity of the samples raises the possibility that they may relate to a single burning event that has become dispersed throughout the features. However, more probably they indicate the storage and handling of cereals on a large basis. That the samples contained a mixture of crops, predominately of cereal grains with little chaff or weed seeds probably indicate the burning of cereal grains that arrived and were stored on the settlement as almost clean grain. The burning may come from waste from processing the grain in bulk or the cleaning of stores.
- 6.6.7 In comparison to the earlier Saxon settlement at Countess Roundabout (Wessex Archaeology 2003) it is notable how much richer these samples are reflecting a denser and more intensive period of occupation in the region. The predominant crops remain however the same, mainly wheat and barley, although neither pea nor broad bean was recovered from the earlier Saxon settlement.

6.7 Charcoal

6.7.1 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 6**. While charcoal was present in all the samples it was generally poorly represented compared to grain that frequently made up the greater proportion of the flots. It was well represented in ditches **110**, **106** and **115** and also in pit **518**.

6.8 Land and fresh/brackish water molluscs

6.8.1 During processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred remains, a small number of snails were noted, and recorded (**Table 6**), in the flots. These were almost always of open country species such as *Vallonia* spp. and *Helicella itala*, although a single shell of *Cochlicopa* spp. and also of probable *Trichia* sp. were also noted.

6.9 Small animal bones

6.9.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals, a small number of fish bones were noted, and recorded (**Table 6**). These were predominately eel (*Anguinus anguinus*) vertebrae, although occasionally other fish vertebrae and in one case a single *otic bullae* (ear bones indicative of fish heads) was noted. There were also several small fish bones within pit (**608**) of a type similar to herring.

Table 6. Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

				Flot							Residue		analysis
Feature type/no	Context	Sample	size litres	flot size ml %root	Grain	Chaff	charred Notes other	Char ¹ 4/2 mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm			
Pits													
pit 428	429	4	20	100 ²⁰	A*	-	B	wheat, barley legumes Rumex	1/1ml	moll-t (C)	-		
Pit 518	514	5	20	175 ¹⁵	A*	-	B	wheat, barley pea bean Vicia Galium Atriplex Poa, Anthemis	5/5ml	min (C)	-		
	515	6	8	250 ⁶⁰	A*	C	B	wheat barley oats Bromus Lit arv rachis T-aes (hex)	6/4ml	-	-	P	
Pit	608	100	20	250 ⁸⁰	A**	C	B	Vicia faba x2, pea x2-3, barley, f-t wheat, rye+ oats, Galium, Vicia, Anthemis, Odontites, Bromus, Torilis Rumex cf. Agrostemma cone indet Min Torilis, Lit arv. Sambucus	10	moll-t (C) fish (A) eel-(C) smb-(C) min-(B)	-	P C	
Ditches													
Ditch 110	107	1	16	125 ¹⁰	A**	C	A	barley, f-t wheat, oats, Vicia, poppy head hazelnut, Vicia faba, Gal ap, Torilis, Lit arv	10/8ml	moll-t (C)	-	P	
	108	2	10	160 ³⁰	A**	C	A	Vicia? faba. Pisum?	5/10ml	eel (C)	-		
	109	3	10	60 ²⁰	A	-	A	as above poss. more f-t wheat	0.5/2 ml	-	-		
Ditch 106	105	4	10	125 ³⁰	A*	C	Bh	f-t wheat, oats Vicia/cleavers persicaria rye rachis	10/10 ml	moll-t (C)	-		

Ditch 115	114	5	10	100 ⁵⁰	A*	-	C	oats, f-t wheat barley p. aviculare	10/10 ml	fish eel (B) moll-t (B) min (C)	-	P
503	502	1	10	60 ²	A*	C	B(h)	+++f-t wheat, +barley hazelnut, pea/lentil x1 rye rachis, f-t rachis Anthemis Galium Avena	1/6 ml	smb-(B) moll-t (C)	-	
407	409	2	20	160 ⁴⁰	A*	C	B (h)	Rye& f-t wheat +rachises barley oats Vicia Anthemis	1/1ml	moll-t (C)	-	
507	506	3	20	150 ²⁰	A*	-	C(h)	oats Bromus, f-t wheat. Vicia/ Lathyrus Lit arv Anthemis	2/2ml	fish-eel (B) smb (C) moll-t (B) min - (C)	-	
416	414	7	20	100 ¹⁰	A*	B	B	f-t wheat barley oats Vicia faba oats Galium Poa	2/5 ml	moll-t (C)	-	
432	435	8	9	175 ³⁰	A*	-	B(h)	wheat barley oats hazelnut Bromus	0.2/0.2 ml	-	-	
Beam Slot												
116	117	6	10	60 ⁴⁰	A*	-	B	1x f-threshing wheat. vetches	0.5/8 ml	moll-t (C) eel (C)	-	

KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs. NOTE: ¹flot is total, but flot in superscript = % of rooty material.

6.9.2

7 POTENTIAL, RESEARCH AIMS AND METHOD STATEMENT

7.1 Archaeological potential

- 7.1.1 Until now little had been discovered of Saxon Amesbury apart from part of a probable early Saxon cemetery found 300 m north of the site during demolition work at the junction of London and Countess Roads in 1835 (Chandler and Goodhugh 1989, 6). In addition, a large north to south aligned ditch, whose upper fills contained Saxon and medieval pottery, was revealed and partially excavated on land 100 m west of the site behind the Antrobus Arms, Church Street (Hulka and Valentin 1999). The limits of Saxon Amesbury are not known. Features found during this excavation show that the site was within the area of Saxon Amesbury, although the limits of the settlement have never been established.
- 7.1.2 A Saxon feature and two probable Saxon ditches found 30 m east of Trench 4 by Wessex Archaeology in 1996 (**Fig. 3**) show that the settlement extended in this direction. One of the ditches (109) found in 1996 was aligned south-west to north-east and could have taken its alignment as a perpendicular from a curving street frontage further to the north-east, which is preserved to the present day in the outline of the present bus station and is mirrored by the properties beyond the north-west corner of the site. This arrangement of property boundaries would have been masked by their amalgamation some time before the AD1726 Flitcroft Map was drawn (**Fig. 3**). The curving northern boundary of the block of land now bounded by Flower Lane to the south and Salisbury Street to the north therefore could date to at least the late Saxon period.
- 7.1.3 Narrower strips of land between two boundary ditches (**522** and **523**) suggest that smaller properties in the late Saxon period had become amalgamated into larger properties by the post-medieval period (as shown on the Flitcroft map of 1726) if not before (**Fig. 3**). The general orientation of the strips, taken perpendicularly from the street frontage, is however preserved. If the roots of this street frontage can be traced back to Saxon times it follows that this was also the probable eastern extent of the medieval market place. That Trench 4 was not in the market place may be confirmed by the rarity of medieval finds recovered from the site.
- 7.1.4 The property boundary of the former Redworth House marked by the late Saxon/early medieval ditch **519** and also the present day wall **448** has been a feature in the landscape for around a thousand years (**Fig. 3**). It appeared to have had a bank on its northern side making it a more substantial barrier than the other two early ditches **522** and **523**, which showed no traces of surviving banks. It may have marked the northern edge of a medieval road leading from the south-east corner of the medieval market place and continuing further east as Salisbury Road. However, no trace of road construction was found in the earlier evaluation Test Trench 1 that extended approximately 5 m further south than the later Trench 4 or Test Trench 3 that ran close to the possible course of the road.
- 7.1.5 The large late Saxon/early medieval pit **518** was not exactly on the line of ditch **523** unlike the pit recut **511** that was centred on it. This may suggest that original pit **518** predated the ditch. The dog that had been buried at the

base of the pit may have been an offering. It was not recovered due to safety considerations.

- 7.1.6 Trench 5 showed that late Saxon/early medieval activity continued south of the large ditch **519**.
- 7.1.7 The medieval activity on the site all respected the alignments and boundaries of the earlier features.
- 7.1.8 The large Post-medieval or modern feature **425** is situated within the south-east end of the property marked "84" on the Flitcroft Map of 1726 (**Fig. 3**). Its cross-shaped outline and depth suggest it is the result of quarrying for the natural sandy gravel rather than marking the position of a robbed-out building.

7.2 Updated research aims and objectives

What is the evidence for pre-Saxon activity?

- 7.2.1 The excavations produced a few residual sherds of Romano-British pottery and a small assemblage of worked flint of mixed date (Neolithic to late Bronze Age).

What is the evidence for early-mid Saxon activity?

- 7.2.2 Two residual sherds of organic-tempered pottery of early-mid Saxon date provide slight evidence for earlier domestic occupation. The 1996 evaluation recovered no pottery from this period.

What is the evidence for late Saxon/early medieval settlement?

- 7.2.3 Features found in the 1996 evaluation and the excavation can be related to probable property boundaries of this date. This suggestion is supported by the recovery of domestic occupation debris (eg quantities of late Saxon pottery).

Evidence for trade in the late Saxon/early medieval period

- 7.2.4 Assessment of the ceramics (see Mephram Section 5, above) indicates that the settlement at Amesbury was being supplied by several different sources within the county before the 12th century. After this date pottery from both the Kennet valley and west Wiltshire was being brought to Amesbury. Other finds include lava quern fragments, some of which could be of pre-late Saxon date and possible building stone fragments.

Evidence for activities

- 7.2.5 Although most of the material was recovered as rubbish from ditch and pit fills, it does none the less provide an insight into the range of material being used. As well as the range of domestic pottery mentioned above, various tools of ironwork, including a possible awl, and three knife blades, worked bone (polished bone object, a wedge worked from a roe deer radius and a rod), a whetstone and structural material – iron nails, possible stone building material and tile were recovered. All of this material is fairly typical.
- 7.2.6 Assessment of the animal bone indicates that several deposits are made up of either butchery waste (some primary) and others are the remains from cooking and/or roasting meat. Most of the bone comes from cattle, pig and

sheep/goat, although a small number of horse, dog and bird bone was also recovered. Some fish bone, predominantly eel was noted.

7.2.7 Assessment of the charred plant remains indicates that the assemblage is typical of the late Saxon/early medieval period (see Section 6, above) and includes wheat, oats, beans and some hazelnut fragments. Weed seeds were present but less well represented. There is the potential to reveal information on the range of crops grown as well as, to a limited extent, the nature of cultivation.

7.2.8 It was noted that some of the material was mineralised, which could be an indicator of cess or rotting fish (note fish bone above).

What is the evidence for medieval and post-medieval development of the known settlement?

7.2.9 Medieval features (ditches and pits) tended to respect the alignment of earlier features. There was some evidence that properties had become amalgamated in the post-medieval period.

7.3 Method statements and recommendations for further work

Historical background and research

7.3.1 A short account of the historical background will form part of the report and discussion so that the excavation results can be placed in their known historical context.

7.4 Finds

Introduction

7.4.1 Of the total finds assemblage, only pottery and animal bone warrant further detailed analysis. Any comment on other finds categories will utilise data already recorded as part of the assessment phase.

Pottery

7.4.2 All pottery will be subjected to detailed analysis, involving identification of fabric and form, following the standard Wessex Archaeology recording system for pottery (Morris 1994) and nationally recommended nomenclature for post-Roman vessel forms (MPRG 1998). The pottery will be briefly described and discussed within its local and regional context, with reference to potential sources, chronology and any functional implications. A small selection of vessels will be illustrated as a representative type series (maximum ten vessels).

Animal Bone

7.4.3 Further work should focus on the late Saxon/early medieval assemblage, and a full record should be made of the species, elements and characteristics of each fragment, to include butchery, measurements, etc. Analysis should then be carried out to investigate taphonomic processes, carcass manipulation and methods of animal husbandry. The results should then be compared to other similarly dated sites and feature types to

determine the nature of occupation and infer aspects of the status and function of this site.

7.5 Charred plant remains

7.5.1 The charred remains have the potential to reveal information about the types of crops cultivated at the settlement and from the limited number of weed seeds a small amount of information on the nature of cultivation at the settlement. The potential in part depends on the likelihood of whether the samples are likely to come from a single event or multiple events. Analysis of multiple samples may possibly be able to shed some light on this possibility. Well dated assemblages of Saxon charred plant remains are relatively rare in Wiltshire and southern England as a whole. These remains may help aid in defining the rural versus 'urban' nature of this activity.

7.6 Charcoal

7.6.1 The charcoal has some potential to indicate the utilisation and management of woodland resources and their use as fuel. Given that such material may come from a single event and is not associated with any specific activity, e.g. drying cereals, metal working etc. such potential is limited.

7.7 Land Snails and fresh/brackish water molluscs

7.7.1 The land snails have no further potential.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

Museum

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, Salisbury. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

Conservation

- 9.1.2 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects.
- 9.1.3 Metal objects have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment phase, as a basic record and also to aid identification. On the basis of the X-rays, the range of objects present and their provenance on the Site, two objects (knife, possible punch) have been selected for further conservation treatment, involving investigative cleaning and stabilisation.

Storage

- 9.1.4 The finds are currently stored in perforated polythene bags in 7 cardboard or airtight plastic boxes, ordered by material type, following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990).

Discard Policy

- 9.1.5 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, any discard could target the burnt, unworked flint, and the undiagnostic fired clay. The discarding of any artefacts will be carried out only with the complete agreement of the Museum.
- 9.1.6 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms to nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

Archive

- 9.1.7 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995).

Copyright

- 9.1.8 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be

non-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

Security Copy

- 9.1.9 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

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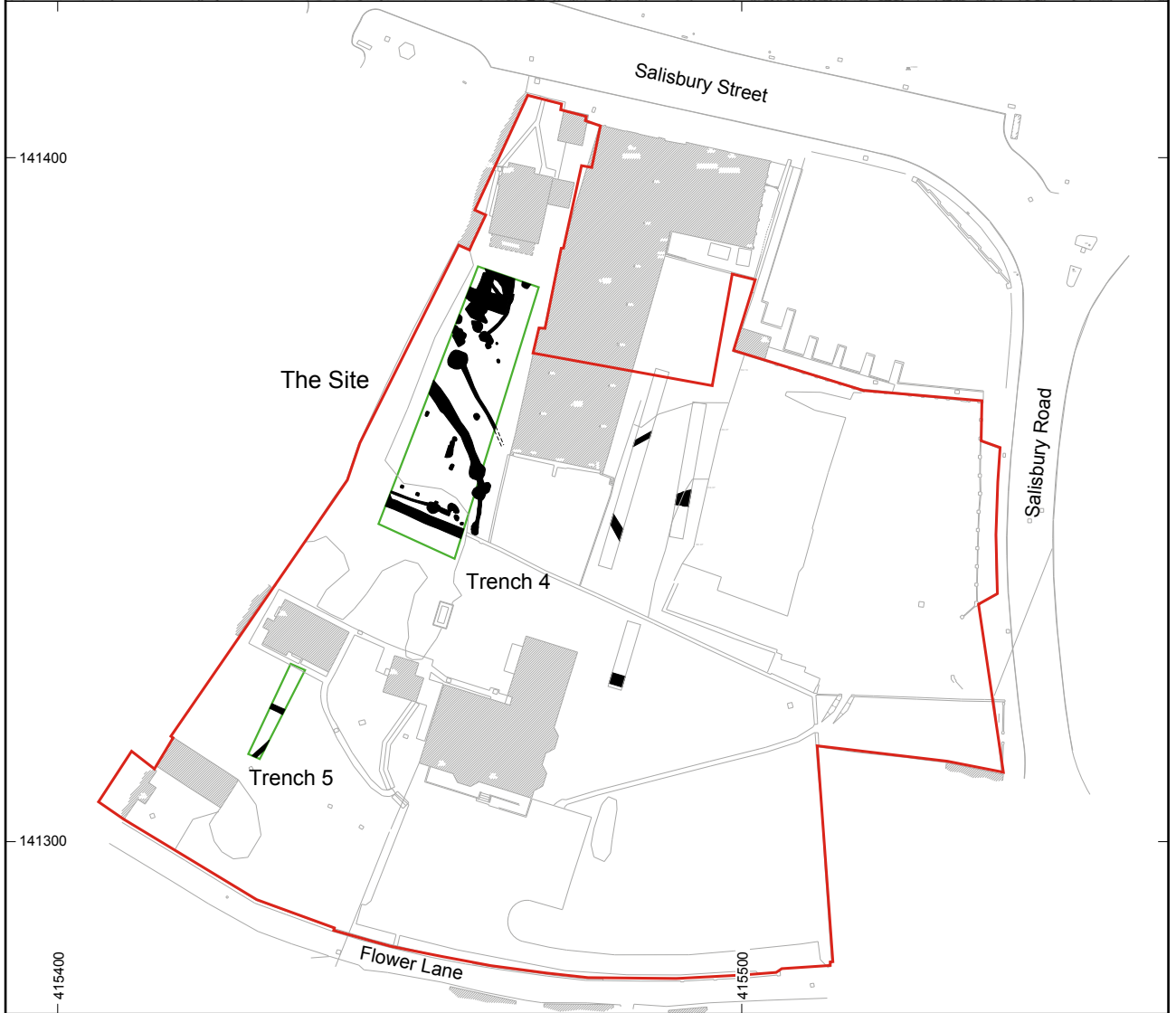
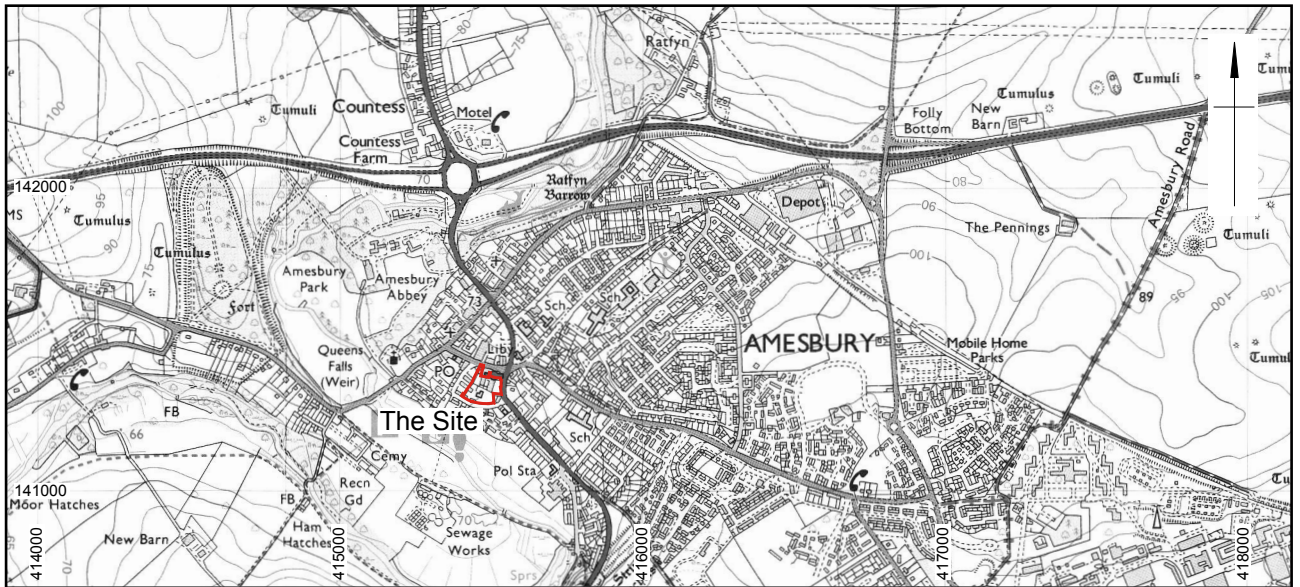
11 APPENDIX




11.1 List of Archaeological Features

Note: Features from Watching Brief 60032 marked *

Group	Cut	Fills	Description
	-	401	Subsoil covering most of the site. Mid grey silt containing common sub-angular flints. Average 0.5m deep. Removed by machine.
	-	402	Natural ground. The most common of three geological deposits. Mid orangey brown silty sand and sub-angular flint mix.
	403	404	Post-med pit. Irregular oval. 0.95x0.80x0.15m deep with steep-sloping concave sides and a flattish base.
	405	406	Saxo-Norman posthole. Sub-circular. 0.30m diameter and 0.15m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a concave base.
	410	411	Undated posthole. Sub-rectangular. 0.52x0.40x0.03m deep with a flattish base.
	412	413	Undated pit. Sub-circular. 1.0m diameter and 0.07m deep with shallow-sloping sides and a flattish base.
	417	418	19 th cent cut. Irregular. Only partly exposed and excavated at the N of the site. 3+x1x0.2m+ deep with variably sloping sides.
	419	420	19 th cent trench. S end uncertain and may finish as pit 526, N end not exposed. 9m+ long. 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep with moderate-sloping concave sides and a concave base. Skirts around the east side of and is probably contemporary with cut 425. S end numbered as 528.
	421	422	19 th cent ditch. Aligned N-S. 1.5m long. S end uncertain. 0.20m wide and 0.15m deep with steep-sloping concave sides and a concave base.
	-	423	Natural ground. Pale orangey yellow silt.
	-	424	Natural ground. Pale grey silty sand and sub-angular flint mix.
	425	467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474	19 th cent cut. Irregular cross shape. Aligned N-S and E-W. 7x7x1.3m+ deep with vertical sides. W side not exposed and full depth not excavated. The arms of the cross were 1.6 to 3.0m wide.
	426	427	Saxo-Norman pit. Sub-circular. 0.60m diameter and 0.10m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a flattish base.
	428	429	Saxo-Norman pit. Probably two contemporary intercutting pits. The irregular shape included a sub-circular part, 0.5m diameter and 0.10m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a flat base at the N. This was joined to an oval pit 2.1x1.5x0.2m deep to the S. The oval pit had moderate-sloping sides and a concave base.
	440	441	Undated cut. Only seen in section. 0.6m wide and 0.20m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a concave base.
	-	442	Post-med layer. Only seen in section. Covers Saxon ditch 519. Very dark greyish brown silty clay. 0.25m deep.
	-	443 / 444	Modern layer. Only seen in section. Mid brown silty clay. 0.30m deep. A greenish tinge suggests the presence of cess.
	445	446, 447, 448, 449, 450	19 th cent? construction cut. Only seen in section. Cut for the construction of the E-W aligned boundary wall (448) that is still extant. At least 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep with shallow-sloping sides and a flattish base.
	-	448	19 th cent? boundary wall. Aligned E-W and still extant although partially replaced with 20 th cent breeze block. 0.40m wide and 2m tall. Made from lime mortar and chalk rubble with occasional fractured flints. Perhaps categorised as "Clunch".
	451	452, 453, 454, 455	20 th cent pit. Only seen in section. Ca. 1.6m wide and 0.5m deep with shallow-sloping sides and a concave base.
	456	457, 458	20 th cent robber trench. Only seen in section. At least 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep with steep-sloping sides and a flat base. Contained flint rubble (457) in a corner, probably a remnant of the original fill. Just N and possibly parallel to wall 448.
462	430	431	Medieval ditch. Aligned E-W. 9m+ long, W end not exposed. 0.50m wide and 0.22m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a concave base. Its E terminus was noticeably rectangular.
	463	464	
	477	478	Saxo-Norman posthole. Sub-rectangular. 0.90x0.52x0.20m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a flattish base.
	482	483	Post-med pit. Sub-circular. 2.70m diameter and 0.25m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a flattish base.
	484	485, 486	Saxo-Norman pit. Sub-circular. 1.7m diameter and 0.50m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a concave base.
	487	488	Saxo-Norman posthole. Sub-rectangular. 0.80x0.40x0.20m deep with steep-sloping sides and a concave base.
	489	490	Medieval ditch. Aligned NW-SE. 2m+ long, both ends truncated. 0.45m wide and 0.25m deep with moderate-sloping somewhat irregular sides and a concave base.
	495	496	Saxo-Norman pit. Sub-oval. 0.70x0.50x0.17m deep with moderate-sloping sides

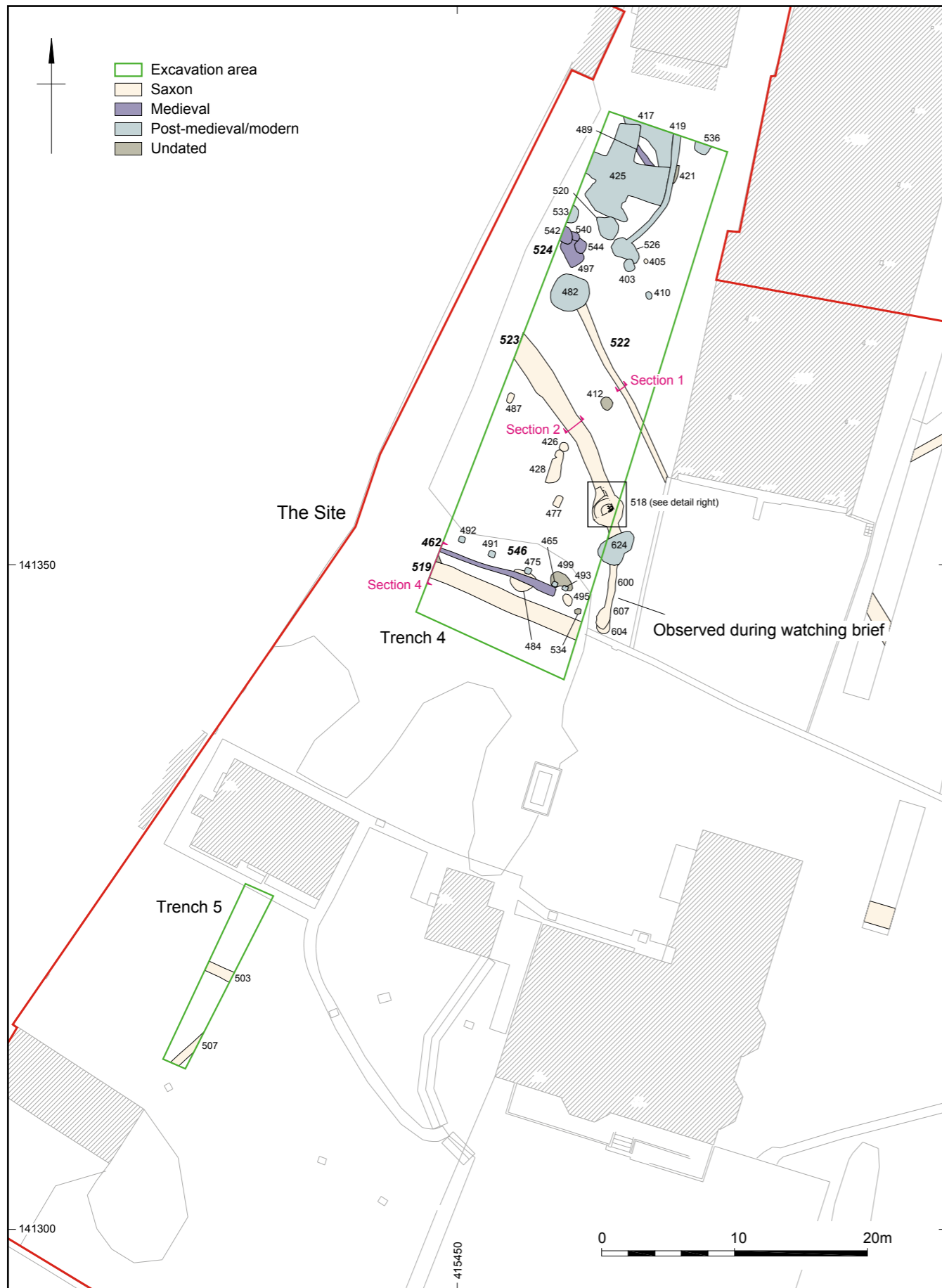
			and a flattish base.
	497	498	Medieval pit. Sub-rectangular. 2.1x1.2x0.45m deep with steep-sloping sides and a flat base.
	499	508	Treethrow. Undated but lack of finds suggest possibly prehistoric. Kidney-shaped. 1.8x1.0x0.10m deep with shallow-sloping sides and an uneven base.
	-	501 / 505	Subsoil in the trench 5 area. Mid grey silt containing common flints and chalk fragments. Average 0.5m deep. Removed by machine.
	503	502	Saxo-Norman ditch. Aligned E-W. 2m+ long, neither end exposed. 0.80m wide and 0.15m deep with moderate-sloping sides and flattish base.
	-	504	Natural ground in Trench 5 area. Same as 402.
	507	506	Saxo-Norman ditch. Aligned NNE-SSW. 3m+ long, neither end exposed. 0.70m wide and 0.25m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a concave base.
	511	509, 510	Recut of Saxo-Norman pit 518. Circular with a diameter of 2m and a depth of 1.3m with steep-sloping sides and a concave base. Integral with ditch 523.
	518	514, 515, 516, 517	Saxo-Norman pit. Circular with a diameter of 2.5m and a depth of 2.0m with steep-sloping sides and a concave base. A dog was buried at the base of the pit. Later recut as 511 which was more centred on the line of ditch 523.
519	432	433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439	Saxo-Norman pit. Aligned E-W. 10m+ long, neither end exposed. 2.1m wide and 1.1m deep with steep-sloping convex sides and a narrow flattish base. The line of the ditch underlies the present day boundary marked by wall 448. The ditch must end or narrow just to the E as Saxo-Norman ditch 523 would encroach on it.
	520	521	19 th century pit. Sub-circular. 1.6m average diameter. Moderate-sloping irregular sides and a flat base.
522	407	408, 409	Saxo-Norman ditch. Aligned NW-SE. 14m+ long, NW end cut by pit 482 and SE end not exposed. 0.6m wide and 0.35m deep with moderate-sloping, V-shaped profile.
	479	480, 481	
523	416	414, 415	Saxo-Norman ditch. Aligned NW-SE but with a slight bend to the S. 15m+ long. NW end not exposed. The ditch passes through contemporary pit 518 and terminates in pit 607 to the SE. 1.3m wide and 0.85m deep with a moderate-sloping upper part and a narrow deeper toe. SE end may respect a boundary line marked by ditch 519 that still existed as 448, the N boundary wall of Redworth House.
	513	512	
	600*	601	
	602*	603	
	614*	615	
	620*	621, 622, 623	
524	497	498	Medieval group of intercutting pits. Approximately 2.5x2.5x0.5m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a flattish base. W extent not revealed.
	=538	=539	
	540	541	
	542	543	
	544	545	
	526	529	Modern pit. Sub-oval. 2.3x1.4x0.15m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a flattish base. Sited at the S end of ditch 419 with which it may be contemporary and joined.
	527	530	Modern pit. Sub-oval. 0.9x0.7x0.5m deep with steep-sloping sides and a flat base. Apparently cut within the outline of pit 526.
	528	531	S end of ditch 419.
	533	532	Post-medieval pit. Only E side exposed and not bottomed. 1.4x0.7x0.5+m deep with moderate-sloping sides.
	534	535	Undated posthole. Sub-circular. 0.47m diameter and 0.20m deep with moderate-sloping sides and a flat base.
	536	537	Modern pit. Only S side exposed. Unexcavated other than to recover finds. 1.3x0.9m+.
546	465	466	Line of 5 modern postholes. Aligned E-W. Average posthole sub-square, 0.4x0.4x0.20m deep with steep-sloping sides and a flat base.
	475	475	
	491	-	
	492	-	
	493	494	
	604*	605, 606	Saxo-Norman pit. Probably sub-rectangular but truncated by 607. 1.2x0.9x0.20m deep. Very steep sloping sides and a flattish base. Forms the original SE terminal of ditch 523. Recut as pit 607.
	607*	608, 609, 610, 613	Saxo-Norman pit. Sub-rectangular. 1.5x0.9x0.30m deep. Moderate-sloping sides and a flattish base. Recut of pit 604. Forms the SE terminal of ditch 523.
	616*	617, 618, 619	Modern pit. Irregular. 3.0x1.8x0.6m deep. Very steep-sloping sides and a flat base. (Two slots into the pit were given separate cut and fill numbers).
	624*	625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631	



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Location and trench layout

Figure 1

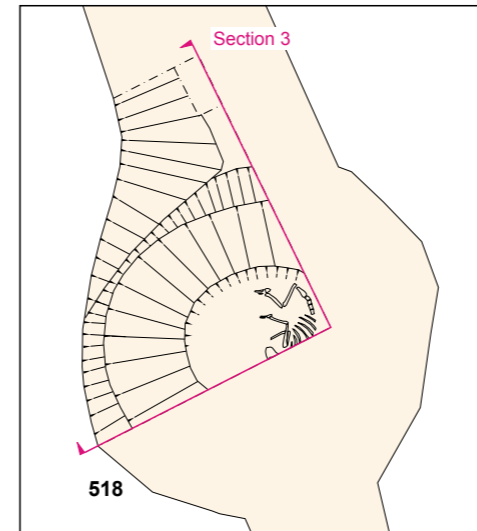


Section 3



Pit 518 from north-west

Section 3

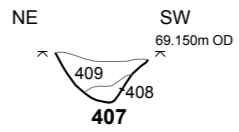


Pit 518

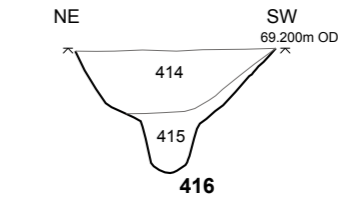


South-east facing section through groups 519 and 462

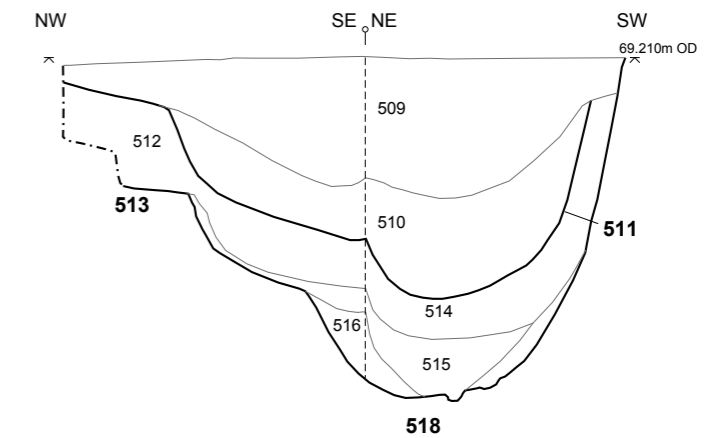
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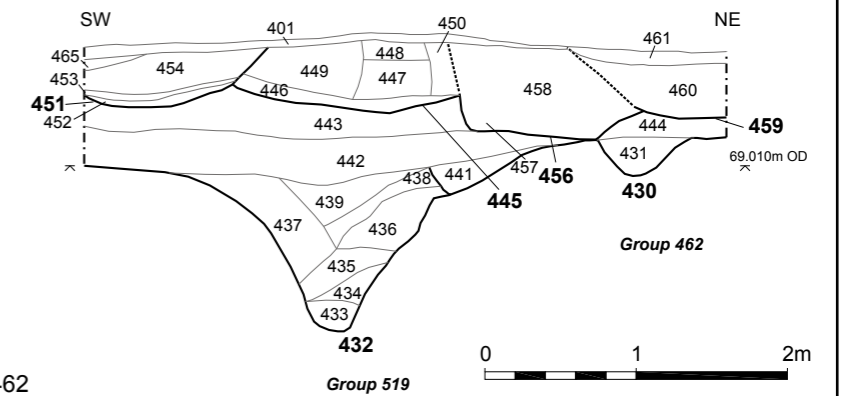
Section 2



Section 3



Section 4





The Site

- 2006 excavation
- 2006 evaluation
- 1996 evaluation
- Saxon features

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Features in relation to the Flitcroft Map of 1726 AD

Figure 3



Plate 1: Northern property boundary of the former Redworth House looking east. Modern breeze block wall sitting on the foundations of a post-medieval chalk and mortar wall. This overlies and aligns with a ditch of Saxon origin.



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

London Office: Unit 701, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY.

Tel: 020 7953 7494 Fax: 020 7953 7499 london-info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

