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## GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

### *Archaeology*

For the purposes of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

### *Iron Age*

The latest period to fall within the general category of 'Prehistoric'. In Britain it may, for convenience, be dated from c 500 BC to the Roman conquest in AD 43.

### *Medieval*

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and c AD 1500.

### *Natural*

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case the Rhaetic Clays

### *NGR*

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

### *OD*

Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

### *OS*

Ordnance Survey

### *Prehistoric*

In Britain this term is generally used for any of the traditionally defined periods (e.g. Neolithic, Bronze Age etc) prior to the Roman invasion in AD 43.

### *Romano-British*

Term used to describe the synthesis of indigenous late Iron Age traditions with the invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated between AD 43 and c AD 410

## SUMMARY

An evaluation undertaken at Erlescote Manor in 1999 revealed significant archaeological deposits of Saxo-Norman date. An archaeological excavation was subsequently required prior to the commencement of groundworks. This latter work was undertaken in December 2000 and January 2001. The plans for the building works were subsequently amended and most areas within the footprint of the proposed building in addition to the new wall footings for the dining room, kitchen and conservatory (2500mm deep) were subject to archaeological observation and excavation.

The excavation revealed additional Saxo-Norman settlement features in Area 2 comprising a ditch and a possible moat. A Medieval ditch was also identified in Area 1, along with Post-Medieval wall foundations, postholes, demolition rubble and two ditches.

Within the constraints of the restricted areas available for excavation, the project has added to the overall understanding of the archaeological resource present at the site of Erlescote Manor.

During the watching brief the continuation of previously identified ditches was observed in the newly stripped areas. A further Medieval linear was also observed. Within the deep trench wall footings the continuation of one previously identified ditch was present. No additional features were identified in this area, predominantly due to extensive modern intrusions.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In 1999 Foundations Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Michael Burton on behalf of Mr K. Carby to evaluate an area of land in advance of development at Erlescote Manor, Wanborough, Swindon (NGR: SU 2166 8558). The results of the evaluation were deemed sufficient to require the implementation of a planning condition for archaeological excavation in advance of the construction works, following on with an archaeological watching brief during construction works.
- 1.2 The archaeological works were undertaken in response to a proposal to build an extension to the existing Erlescote Manor, as well as the construction of a garage block and stables. The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design prepared by Foundations Archaeology (November 2000). The Project Design was prepared in accordance with IFA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Excavation* (1999), *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1999) and the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (County Archaeological Service 1995). The programme of archaeological works was undertaken in accordance with the principles of Planning Policy Guidance note 16, *Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990).
- 1.3 This document provides an assessment of the evidence recovered during the evaluation, excavation and watching brief and proposes a programme to bring the results to publication. The final format for publication was not specified in the Project Design, although a range of possible options was suggested (Foundations Archaeology 2000). This document details the proposed publication format and content of the report. This document conforms to the specification set out in Appendices 4 and 5 of *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).
- 1.4 In the following sections the results of the excavation and of the watching brief are detailed followed by a discussion of the deposits and structures identified. Each major category of finds is then similarly assessed in turn, and finally an overall discussion of the site and its artefacts and ecofacts is given.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The archaeological excavation and subsequent watching brief were undertaken in response to a planning condition. This was applied due to the presence of archaeologically significant remains which had been previously identified during a field evaluation (Foundations Archaeology 1999). The excavation was undertaken in accordance with current planning guidance (Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, DoE 1990) and in consultation with Roy Canham the County Archaeological Officer for Wiltshire County Council and archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council.

- 2.2 The excavation was undertaken to standards set out in the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3 (Excavation Manual).
- 2.3 The study area lies within an area defined as being of archaeological significance. A number of earthworks are visible on aerial photographs to the north, north-west and south-east of the manor.
- 2.4 The earliest reference to the study area is in a spurious charter implied to the West Saxon King Eathelwulf in 854 AD. This document supported a claim to an estate covered by the modern parish of Little Hinton (which then included the study area) by the church of St. Peter and St Paul at Winchester. The document is likely to date to the early-mid 11<sup>th</sup> century when the estate was held by the Bishop of Winchester *c.* 1043-53 AD, but may not have achieved its aim as the estate was in the possession of Earl Odo immediately prior to the Conquest (1066 AD).
- 2.5 The settlement is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) as *Ardescote*. The name may have originated from *Eardulfscote* meaning ‘the cottage(s) of Eard(w)ulf’, which would subsequently have become shortened to ‘Eard’s cottages’. By the late 12<sup>th</sup> century (1196) the settlement is documented as *Erdescote*, by 1428 *Herdescote* and by 1542 as *Erlescote al. Erdescote* (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1939).
- 2.6 At the time of the Domesday survey, Erlescote was held by Stephen Carpenter, one of the king’s serjeants. His estate consisted of 1 hide and 1 virgate of land. The estate supported two ploughs, with one slave, 3 villagers and two smallholders. It also included 30 acres of meadow and 8 acres of pasture (Thorn 1979).
- 2.7 The descent of the manor is detailed in the Victoria County History (Crittall 1970) and for much of the Medieval period was included with the Manor of Wanborough. It was in the hands of Geoffrey, Count of Perche at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Erlescote was recorded as a township (Hurdescote) in the Wiltshire crown pleas of 1249, but thereafter is documented as a manor, suggesting that a village element had originally existed which disappeared sometime after the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century, probably as part of the general retrenching of settlement seen across Britain during the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. A description of the house in 1423 gives it as a hall, two chambers, a barn, a stable and a sheepfold. Ponds noted to the west of the house in 1965 suggested that it had originally been moated.
- 2.8 An evaluation was undertaken to the north of the manor house in January 1999 in advance of tree planting (Philips and Walters 1999). These works comprised two 20m long trenches, one of which was sited to sample an upstanding earthwork. One gully and a ditch at the foot of the bank were identified in the second of these trenches. Both contained Medieval pottery of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. Additional

- Medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the subsoil in both trenches. All of these sherds were contemporary with those recovered from the identified features.
- 2.9 An evaluation undertaken at the site by Foundations Archaeology in 1999 involved the excavation of four trenches. Significant archaeological remains in the form of five ditches and a single pit were present in Trenches 2 and 3. The pottery suggested that five of the features were of Saxo-Norman date and one of later Medieval date, and that they related to the early manor site. The features were clearly of considerable archaeological significance, and in accordance with the planning condition, an archaeological excavation was agreed with the archaeological representative of Swindon Borough Council. The results of this second phase of work are detailed in Section 3.
- 2.10 The initial excavation comprised two discrete areas within the footprint of the house extension (Figure 2). Area 1 was excavated in the main body of the extension to expand on the results of the evaluation, whilst Area 2 was excavated in the location of a sub-surface boiler room and basement, construction of which would destroy surviving archaeological deposits. The entire footprint of the proposed development was not excavated as groundworks were initially, with the exception of new loadbearing wall foundations, not to penetrate below 300mm from the modern ground surface and would consequently not impact upon archaeological horizons. However, redesign of the building plans, due to the material condition of the site, meant that the whole of the footprint of the proposed building was excavated to the natural substrate. As a consequence the watching brief area was extended to cover the entire of the development area.
- 2.11 The Foundations Archaeology Project Design stated the following objectives, based on the assessment of quality and importance of deposits encountered during the evaluation:
- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible.
  - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of occupation on the site, with particular regard to discovering as much as practicable about settlement.
  - iii) to elucidate the structural history, economy and environment of all identifiable periods of settlement on the site, through the recovery of a well dated stratigraphic sequence and the recovery of coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

### **3 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE**

- 3.1 Two areas, (Area 1 and Area 2) covering a total of 106m<sup>2</sup>, were stripped by machine of topsoil and subsoil to the upper levels of the deposits of archaeological significance. These were reached at *c.* 50m OD, as identified during the evaluation. These areas were sited within the footprint of the proposed extension to the manor house, but positioned to avoid extant services present on the site. Excavation was thereafter undertaken by hand in accordance with the Project Design (Foundations Archaeology 2000).
- 3.2 After completion of the excavation the plans for the proposed buildings were amended. These new plans detailed the need to excavate the whole of the footprint of the proposed building down to the natural substrate, as opposed to the previous plans which only required the removal of 300mm of material. This alteration only became clear after work had started on this part of the building. This meant that an area of the site was stripped and concreted before the archaeological team was notified that work had begun. The remaining areas within the footprint of the extension were excavated by machine and were thereafter subjected to hand-excavation. Groundworks associated with the new 2500mm deep wall foundations for the building were also subject to archaeological observation, although Health & Safety constraints prevented access to the trenches.
- 3.3 Topsoil across the study area consisted of a uniform dark brown silty clay loam averaging 0.35m deep with a clayey subsoil averaging 0.40m deep. Within the areas examined, usage of the site as a working farm until recent years and subsequent landscaping works have destroyed any archaeological features that were not deeply buried.
- 3.4 Archaeological deposits were present in all areas of the site.
- 3.5 All the features and archaeological deposits identified on site had been subject to truncation resulting from the use of the site as a working farmyard. These activities would have destroyed any upstanding archaeological features, such as walls, and damaged any extant occupation surfaces. The levels from which ditches and gullies were cut were also truncated. A number of features may have been previously destroyed altogether. Damage to the archaeological deposits was substantial and excavation was further hindered by waterlogging, resulting from a water-table above the height of the archaeological horizons. Several modern drains were also present within Area 1 and a large cess-pit was present at the centre of the deep-trench wall footings.

### **Phase I: Saxo-Norman Features**

- 3.6 A large negative feature, ditch [2004] (Figure 5, 7) ran approximately east-west along the northern section and measured at least 2.5m wide by 0.70m deep. The



- feature contained two distinct fills; the earlier (2007) comprised a dark blue-grey silty clay with occasional limestone fragments, up to 0.35m deep. Large fragments of limestone (2006) were laid into the top of this fill. The later fill comprised a mid-grey silty clay (2005) up to 0.40m deep. No artefacts were recovered from this feature, which may represent an early moat or enclosure ditch.
- 3.7 Additional parts of feature [2004] were also identified during the watching brief. During stripping in preparation for excavation of the basement area, [2004] was seen to continue in an easterly and a southwesterly direction. A section was dug immediately to the west of Area 2, where it was possible to explore the full width of the feature (see Figure 7). Section [2004a] measured 3.83m in width and 0.63m in depth. It contained the same fills as those revealed in the first section, although the earlier fill was much shallower, measuring only 0.10m in depth on average. A rim sherd of Saxo-Norman pot was found within this fill. Several smaller sherds of Saxo-Norman pot were also present within the secondary fill (2005). The feature is therefore securely dated to between the mid 10<sup>th</sup> and mid 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. The secondary fill also yielded a few animal bone and teeth fragments. Feature [2004] was also present in the west facing section of the basement cut, showing it to be continuing on the same alignment towards the north-east.
- 3.8 A continuation of the stone flagging (2006) was also identified during the second stage of excavation. In this section (2006a) comprised two layers of flat stones 'cemented' together with a sticky grey clay. This was cut into the base of [2004a], rather than lying between fills (2005) and (2007). Two clear courses were visible at the centre of the feature, which ran the width of section [2004a] and was approximately 1m in length and 0.8m in depth. The limestone fragments were roughly shaped and neatly fitted together.
- 3.9 Section [2004a] also revealed the presence of a possible post hole [1109]. It lay to the south of (2006a) and in the base of [2004a], but was only partially visible within the east facing section of [2004a]. It measured 0.34m in length, at least 0.09m in width and 0.14m in depth and appeared sub-circular in plan with a 'D' shaped profile. It was filled with (1110), a mid grey compact, plastic clay with a few grit inclusions. No finds were found in association with the feature, which appeared to have been cut by [2004].
- 3.10 Ditch [2004] also appeared to cut a north-south irregular ditch [2010], which measured 1.20m wide by 0.46m deep. This latter feature contained two fills; the earlier (2014) comprised a compact grey brown silty clay beneath a mid-grey brown silt clay (2011). Four sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery were recovered from fill (2011) along with three residual sherds of local Roman greyware. A second probable north-south feature [2017] associated with [2004] was present against the eastern baulk. This feature was sampled, but no profile could be recovered from the small area available for excavation. Although both [2010] and [2017]

appeared to be cut by [2004] it is likely that they both represent channels cut to improve drainage into the possible moat.

- 3.11 A further linear feature [1104], was identified during the excavation of the building footprint (Figure 7). The feature was initially aligned north-east/south-west, then turned sharply south towards Area 1 before disappearing into an area of later disturbance. The feature [1104] was a shallow linear with a gradually sloping south-eastern edge and a steeper, stepped north-western edge. It measured approximately 1m in width and 0.26m in depth. It was filled with (1105), a mid grey brown compact, friable sand clay with frequent charcoal streaks, occasional streaks of degraded limestone and rounded granite/limestone fragments. Ten sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery were found, securely dating the feature to between the 10<sup>th</sup> and mid 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was cut by a small feature [1106] on its north-western edge. This feature measured 0.31m in width, 0.70m in length and 0.09m in depth and was filled with (1107), an orange and grey mottled hard, compact clay with frequent charcoal streaks.
- 3.12 Although [1104] could not be traced southwards, it is possible that its continuation to the north east has been identified in [1110], which ran closely parallel to the south of [2004a]. Ditch [1110] was 0.97m in width and 0.40m in depth and the southern edge was concave and uneven while the northern edge was steep coming to a near point at the base. It was filled with (1111), a mid brown and orange mottled compact, plastic sand clay with few-occasional charcoal streaks. It is possible that [1110] is also equivalent to the part of the linear identified in Area 2 as [2017].
- 3.13 A single undated posthole [1108] measuring 0.50m in diameter by 0.09m deep, was also present within Area 2 (Figure 5). This was a simple earthcut feature with a grey silty clay fill (1109). No finds were recovered from this feature.

## **Phase II: Medieval**

- 3.14 In Area 1 the earliest feature was a ditch [1007], a U-shaped cut measuring 1.4m wide by 0.50m deep (Figure 3). The fill comprised a dark silt clay (1008) from which seven sherds of handmade 10<sup>th</sup> to mid-12<sup>th</sup> century pottery and two sherds of mid-13<sup>th</sup> century Nash Hill jug fabric were recovered. The ditch was aligned north-east to south-west and was present only in the southeastern corner of the excavation area. This ditch was not identified outside Area 1 due to modern disturbance.

## **Phase III: Post-Medieval**

- 3.15 Ditch [1011] was aligned north-south and had previously been sampled by the evaluation as feature [312]. Pottery recovered from this feature during the evaluation was entirely of 12<sup>th</sup> –14<sup>th</sup> century date, but the assemblage from the

- excavation included a single sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery, one sherd of Minety ware (12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century) and two sherds of 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century Ashton Keynes ware. The ditch ran the entire length of the west facing section, but was not exposed over its entire width. During the excavation an additional section was cut through the feature at the point where it was cut by feature [1009]. This second feature was also of Post-Medieval date (16<sup>th</sup> century +) and contained a grey brown sandy clay fill with occasional limestone fragments (1010). The cut measured at least 0.71m wide by 0.25m deep. It was at least 1.70m long from the west facing section but did not continue to the west of a modern drainage cut.
- 3.16 Linear [1009] was not identified outside Area 1, as the watching brief area did not extend far enough south. However, [1011] was confirmed to continue in both a northern and southern direction (see Figure 7). A further section [1011a], was cut across the linear immediately to the north of Area 1. This section revealed the ditch to be 1.40m in width reducing marginally in depth towards the north. It contained the same fills as previous sections. Within the top fill, (1017a), two sherds of Ashton Keynes pottery were present along with two brick fragments. The eastern edge of [1011] was also identified within the deep-trench footings immediately to the east of Area 1, from which two sherds of Ashton Keynes ware were recovered. The feature was also present in the south facing section of the un-stripped area, demonstrating that it also continued northwards.
- 3.17 An irregular wall footing [1004] covering approximately 8m<sup>2</sup> was located in the northern part of Area 1. It consisted of a thin clay and stone layer at c. 50.03m OD. Sections of this feature appeared to represent the base courses of a wall, with one small offset area, 0.90m long, that might mark the location of a potential entrance (Figure 3). These potential wall footings lay within a concentrated scatter of loose rubble (1016) that may represent demolition debris. Handmade brick fragments, indicating a likely Post-Medieval date, were recovered from within and beneath the surface, along with a number of residual Medieval pottery sherds. The surface sealed two earth-cut postholes [1005] and [1013], probably of contemporary date to the wall base. These measured 0.4m in diameter by 0.19m deep and 0.25m in diameter by 0.20m deep respectively.
- 3.18 The watching brief identified a previously unknown linear in the westernmost stripped area, directly north east of [1104] and [1106]. This feature [1100], of Post-Medieval date, was east-west aligned and measured 1.49m in width and 0.57m in depth. The cut contained three fills. The primary fill (1101), was a 0.16m thick mid grey sticky, plastic clay with charcoal streaks, small rounded pebbles and fragments of decayed root. It is likely to have originated through silting. Fill (1101) was overlaid by (1102), which was 0.24m thick and a mid grey with orange mottling sticky, plastic clay with occasional small stone inclusions. This was overlaid by (1103) which was 0.29m in depth and a mid grey/orange mottled soft, sticky, plastic silt clay with occasional to frequent charcoal streaks and a few small stone inclusions. All the artefactual evidence was recovered from fill (1102). This included five sherds of Minety Ware, one

sherd of Ashton Keynes ware, one sherd of Post-Medieval Redware and two brick fragments. The alignment of [1100] suggested it should have been present within Area 2, however its absence implies it must terminate within the un-stripped area at the centre of the site. Alternatively it may have turned sharply southwards and merged with linear [1011].

## 4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1 Archaeological features and deposits of the Saxo-Norman period represent the earliest findings from the excavations, but in addition a number of Medieval ditches and Post-Medieval walls, postholes, ditches and demolition debris were also encountered.
- 4.2 The earliest features identified during the course of the excavation were the two ditches in Area 2. Identification of the relationship between these features was hampered by the presence of a sizeable area of disturbance from a grubbed-out tree. The earlier feature appears to have been a north-south linear ditch or gully [2010]. It is probable, however, that these features were contemporary, with the ditch representing a feeder to [2004]. This latter feature is likely to represent an early moat, although the line of the later Medieval moat is probably further to the north where a distinct, large linear depression is visible within the grassed area.
- 4.3 The watching brief confirmed the continuation of feature [2004] to the west of Area 2. It did not, however, appear in the westernmost excavated area and it is therefore likely that a causewayed entrance is present in this location. This ditch consisted of a substantial cut, 3.83m wide by 0.70m deep into the natural clay. A partial layer of stone, (2006) was present between the two fills of the moat in section [2004] and at the base of the cut in section [2004a]. This may represent a revised, shallower base level, possibly a conversion from a defensive feature to a more decorative or status-oriented feature.
- 4.4 A further feature [2017], was identified in Area 2. This was probably equivalent to a third Saxo-Norman linear [1110] identified during the watching brief. This ditch probably fulfilled a similar role to that of [2010] and represented an element of a drainage system.
- 4.5 A fourth Saxo-Norman feature [1008] was present in the base of [2004a]. It is possible that this feature pre-dates the moat. However, its positioning close to (2006a) may instead represent an association with this feature.
- 4.6 A single Medieval feature [1007] was identified in Area 1, from which two sherds of later Medieval pottery, originating from the Nash Hill kilns, were recovered along with earlier material. Despite the fact that the bulk of the pottery assemblage in this feature was of Saxo-Norman date, the presence of the later Medieval sherds suggests that this feature represents an element of the later

- Medieval occupation at the site. It is also possible, however, that the area of Post-Medieval disturbance across the surface may have pressed intrusive material into the feature.
- 4.7 The Post-Medieval evidence within Area 1 provided useful information for site usage during that period and its impact upon earlier deposits. The wall bases [1004] and [1015] and their associated postholes [1005] and [1013] suggest a structure with timber uprights and stone wall footings. The surviving areas were clearly disturbed and the uppermost levels were lost in later activity, probably associated with the demolition of the structure. The material sealing the postholes appeared less well-laid than the potential areas of wall footing and probably comprised demolition debris (1016). The brick fragments recovered from within the fabric of the feature indicate a date, at earliest, of the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Ditches [1009] and [1011] may have been connected to the postulated structure, which probably comprised an outbuilding associated with later use of the site as a farm. No pottery was recovered from the surface, although the material from the two ditches suggested a 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 4.8 A third Post-Medieval ditch [1100] was identified during the watching brief. This linear contained a mixture of 12<sup>th</sup> century and 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds, with the earlier material residual in this context. It is possible that [1100] is equivalent to [1101], thereby forming a boundary ditch or drainage ditch associated with the walls within it.
- 4.9 All the ditches present within the excavation areas were simple earth-cut features with rounded or uneven sides and rounded or flat bases. With the exception of the possible moat, these features were probably land divisions and drains. None appeared to represent foundation trenches related to structural activity. The archaeological evidence may therefore be phased into three main activity periods; Saxo-Norman features probably relating to the post-Conquest settlement (Phase 1); later Medieval activity of the mid-12<sup>th</sup> to mid-14<sup>th</sup> century (Phase 2) and 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century occupation (Phase 3); (see Figure 9). The archaeological record suggests that the manor site remained in constant occupation from the 11<sup>th</sup> century onwards. It is likely that the actual settlement activity was predominantly confined to the area of the existing manor house.
- 4.10 The evidence revealed during the fieldwork is inadequate to draw detailed conclusions regarding the nature of the settlement during the Saxo-Norman period. Nonetheless, it appears likely that the site of the manor house was moated from this early period and may represent a fortified, or semi-fortified, foundation that was probably constructed relatively soon after the Conquest. This is likely to represent a farmstead with a single house site, probably occupied by a single family unit. No evidence of specialist activities such as weaving, spinning or pottery production was identified during the course of the excavations.

- 4.11 The general lack of rural settlement evidence of Saxo-Norman date in the vicinity of the site makes the results of this excavation of considerable local interest. The general absence of stratigraphic relationships and the imprecision of the artefactual evidence (mostly comprising wares from a pottery industry which show little change in fabric between the late 10<sup>th</sup> and mid-12<sup>th</sup> centuries) prevented accurate phasing of every feature.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 Of the three objectives set out in the Project Design (see Section 2) the following have been achieved:

Objective i: this has been satisfactorily achieved. The nature of the archaeological deposits on site has been characterised and these are adequately dated.

Objective ii: the limited stratigraphy of the site combined with the high watertable and Post-Medieval truncation has inhibited the characterisation of the archaeological sequence, but a general picture can be inferred from the results. The earliest identified activity consisted of Saxo-Norman occupation, probably based around a moated manor house. Medieval and Post-Medieval features were also present within the excavation areas.

Objective iii: A stratigraphic sequence was virtually absent across the entire site. The use of the site as a working farm, and earlier construction relating to its present usage, had destroyed any features not cut into the natural clays. Coherent artefactual assemblages have been recovered. Animal bone was uncommon probably due to disposal patterns relating to the settlement and the assemblage was, consequently, too small to provide any useful statistical evidence. Three main phases of occupation have been identified in the excavation areas; the Saxo-Norman activity in Phase 1, later Medieval activity in Phase 2, and Post-Medieval structural activity in Phase 3. The artefactual and ecofactual evidence is discussed in Appendix 1.

- 5.2 The results of the fieldwork clearly justified the implementation of the excavation programme, and the site will now be published in a local Journal.
- 5.3 The site archive and artefactual collection has been deposited with Devizes Museum.

## **6 NATURE OF THE RECORD**

- 6.1 The stratigraphic archive for the site consists of the following elements:

Context Sheets  
Record Sheets

Plans  
Sections  
Black & White photos  
Colour slides

6.2 The following contexts types were represented in the evaluation and excavation:

Wall footings  
Postholes  
Pits  
Ditches  
Fills  
Gullies

6.3 The on-site methodologies used to recover this evidence were set out in the Foundations Archaeology Project Design (2000). In summary the following excavation methods were utilised. A mechanical excavator was used to remove overburden onto the surface of archaeological deposits, thereafter all deposits were removed by hand onto natural. All contexts were recorded on a pro-forma context sheet and principal deposits were drawn in plan and section. These are contained within the project archive. Photographs were taken of all features and sections.

6.4 Following the completion of the excavation an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive was compiled in accordance with Appendix 3 of The Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991).

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Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record

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**APPENDIX 1**  
**SPECIALIST REPORTS**

## APPENDIX 1

All artefacts and ecofacts collected during the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued on a computerised database by context. Finds were restricted to pottery, tile and a very few fragments of animal bone.

The finds assemblage has been examined in order to ascertain date, nature, condition and potential. The results of this work are detailed in the following sections:

### **1 Pottery (by Roy King)**

#### 1 Introduction and methodology

1.1 The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 52 sherds of mainly Medieval pottery, weighing 676g. Three residual Roman sherds were recovered from context (209). Sherds of Post-Medieval date were recovered from contexts (1010), (1012), (1014), (1017) and (1102). A total of six fragments of handmade brick and tile were also recovered from the wall base (1004) and demolition spread (1016) in Area 1.

1.2 The assemblage cannot be dated closely due to the condition and composition of the material.

1.3 For the purposes of this assessment the pottery was sorted into broad fabric categories and quantified by sherd count and weight by recorded context. The information has been summarised in an Excel Table which is included in the archive.

#### 2 Condition

2.1 The pottery is in average condition with relatively small, unabraded sherds dominated by undiagnostic bodysherds. The average sherd size of less than 5g for the Saxo-Norman and Medieval pottery is well below the average for rubbish material.

2.2 There is a general lack of variety in terms of fabric and form overall. The majority of the wares comprise storage pots from the Newbury A, Bath A and Minety traditions, although two sherds were also recovered from a glazed jug from the Nash Hill kilns. There are relatively few rims.

2.3 The pottery was recovered from a total of 7 contexts all of which yielded less than 10 sherds which limited accurate dating.

#### 3 Discussion

3.1 Three residual undiagnostic bodysherds of locally produced Roman greyware were recovered from the early Medieval ditch [2010]

3.2 The assemblage is dominated by handmade reduced flint tempered wares, products of the Newbury A pottery industry (Vince unpublished), which was widespread across the region between from the late 10<sup>th</sup> to mid-12<sup>th</sup> centuries. These account for 26% by count of the total stratified assemblage. Later Medieval wares, partly from the same kiln sources, Newbury B, but predominantly from the Minety kilns in North Wiltshire, accounts for a further 15%.

3.2 No Medieval regional imports were present in the assemblage.

3.3 Post-Medieval fabrics predominantly comprised sherds of red glazed earthenwares from the Ashton Keynes kilns. This material replaced the Medieval Minety ware industry in the area from the late 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries onwards and continued to produce until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Other fabrics included imported German stonewares of the Aachen/Raeren industries, Staffordshire or Bristol salt-glazed ware. The lack of featured sherds in these wares hampers dating, but the assemblage generally dates to the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century. A small quantity of English cream and china wares of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date was also recovered from the subsoil.

#### 4 Conclusion

4.1 The ceramic assemblage indicates that activity on the site dates from the 10<sup>th</sup> to mid-12th centuries onwards and continues through to the present day. The assemblage appears to be quite a low status one with very little diversity and no imports. The three sherds of residual Roman pottery, none of which appeared particularly abraded, also suggest occupation of this period in the near vicinity.

4.2 None of the sherds warrant illustration.

#### **2 Animal Bone**

A sample of only 21 fragments of animal bone was recovered from the evaluation and excavation, with a further 33 from the watching brief. The animal bone, predominantly cattle, but also included sheep and pig, was in relatively poor condition, making identification of several fragments impossible. No detailed work has been undertaken as the size of the assemblage means that no relevant statistical information can be gained from the sample.

Further work: None