

## Salisbury Plain Complex Terrain Environment, South of Juliet Crossing, Wiltshire

### Archaeological Evaluation Report







**Salisbury Plain Complex Terrain Environment  
South of Juliet Crossing  
Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**Prepared for:**

Defence Estates  
Building 21  
Westdown Camp  
Tilshead  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire SP3 4RS

**On behalf of:**

Defence Training Estate  
Warminster

**by**

Wessex Archaeology,  
Portway House,  
Old Sarum Park,  
Salisbury,  
Wiltshire  
SP4 6EB

**Report reference: 71620.03**

**May 2009**

# Salisbury Plain Complex Terrain Environment South of Juliet Crossing Wiltshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Landmarc Support Services Ltd (LSS) through Defence Estates Environmental Support Team (DE EST) on behalf of Defence Training Estate (DTE) to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Juliet Crossing, near Tilshead, Wiltshire ('the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference 401492 146343 (**Figure 1**).

Following conditions encountered in theatre in Afghanistan, the Defence Training Estate (DTE) has plans to upgrade training area facilities to support Operation Herrick. A recurring terrain feature frequently encountered by soldiers in theatre in Afghanistan is the network of irrigation channels with covering crops and wooded elements. To this end DTE require a network of channels ('Complex Terrain') to be cut on Salisbury Plain, amounting to an overall total of c1.25km (**Figure 1**).

Although planning permission was not required, following discussions with the County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council, an archaeological evaluation was proposed by the environmental adviser (archaeology) for DTE Salisbury Plain to ensure that archaeological best practice was followed.

An archaeological brief was prepared by DE EST (DE 2009) detailing the archaeological background to the Site and the method by which an archaeological evaluation should be carried out. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2009) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology detailing the background to the Site and setting out the manner in which the archaeological field evaluation would be undertaken in accordance with the brief. The WSI was submitted to and approved by DE and Wiltshire Council prior to the commencement of the archaeological work.

The archaeological evaluation of the Site was undertaken on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The work comprised the excavation of four trial trenches, totalling 40m in length, equating to approximately a 3% sample of the proposed 1.25km long network of channels (**Figure 1**). The four trial trenches, each measuring 10m x 3m, were excavated to ascertain the presence of archaeological features and remains within the Site that may be threatened by the proposed development.. The trenches were machine excavated using a tracked 360° excavator employing a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All trenches were surveyed using a Leica GX1230 GPS and related to the Ordnance Survey national grid and Datum.

All the trenches (**Plates 1 to 8**) were excavated to the Upper Chalk (clay with flints) natural geology (Geological Survey of Britain (England and Wales) 1:50,000 series, Sheet 282). Across the Site, the c.0.28m deep topsoil was a mid greyish brown silty clay with common root disturbance and sparse flint inclusions. This overlay, within Trenches 1, 2 and 3, a subsoil up to 0.26m in depth, comprised of a mid reddish brown silty clay with sparse flint inclusions (**Plates 2, 4 and 6**). In Trench 4 the topsoil

directly overlay the natural chalk (**Plate 8**). In Trenches 1 and 2 a layer of clay with flints up to 0.22m in depth was seen to cap the chalk natural ((**Plates 2 and 4**). In Trench 3 the subsoil directly overlay the Upper Chalk natural (**Plate 6**). In all four trenches the natural chalk contained abundant patches of clay with flint.

No archaeological features were encountered in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. A single undated shallow linear terminus **[204]** was recorded within **Trench 2**. No securely dated artefacts were encountered within the trenches, and no residual finds were encountered in the topsoil or subsoils. No deposits deemed suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

In light of the results of the trial trench evaluation, which was unable to identify any archaeological features or deposits, along with the lack of residual finds within the topsoil and subsoil, it would appear that the proposed development will have little impact on any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation trenches have demonstrated that there is a low potential for archaeology on the Site.

## REFERENCES

- Defence Estates Environment Support Team, 2009. Salisbury Plain Complex Terrain Environment. Brief for Field Evaluation. South of Juliet Crossing, DTE SP.
- Wessex Archaeology, 2009. Salisbury Plain Complex Terrain Environment. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological field Evaluation. Ref: 71620.01.

## APPENDIX 1

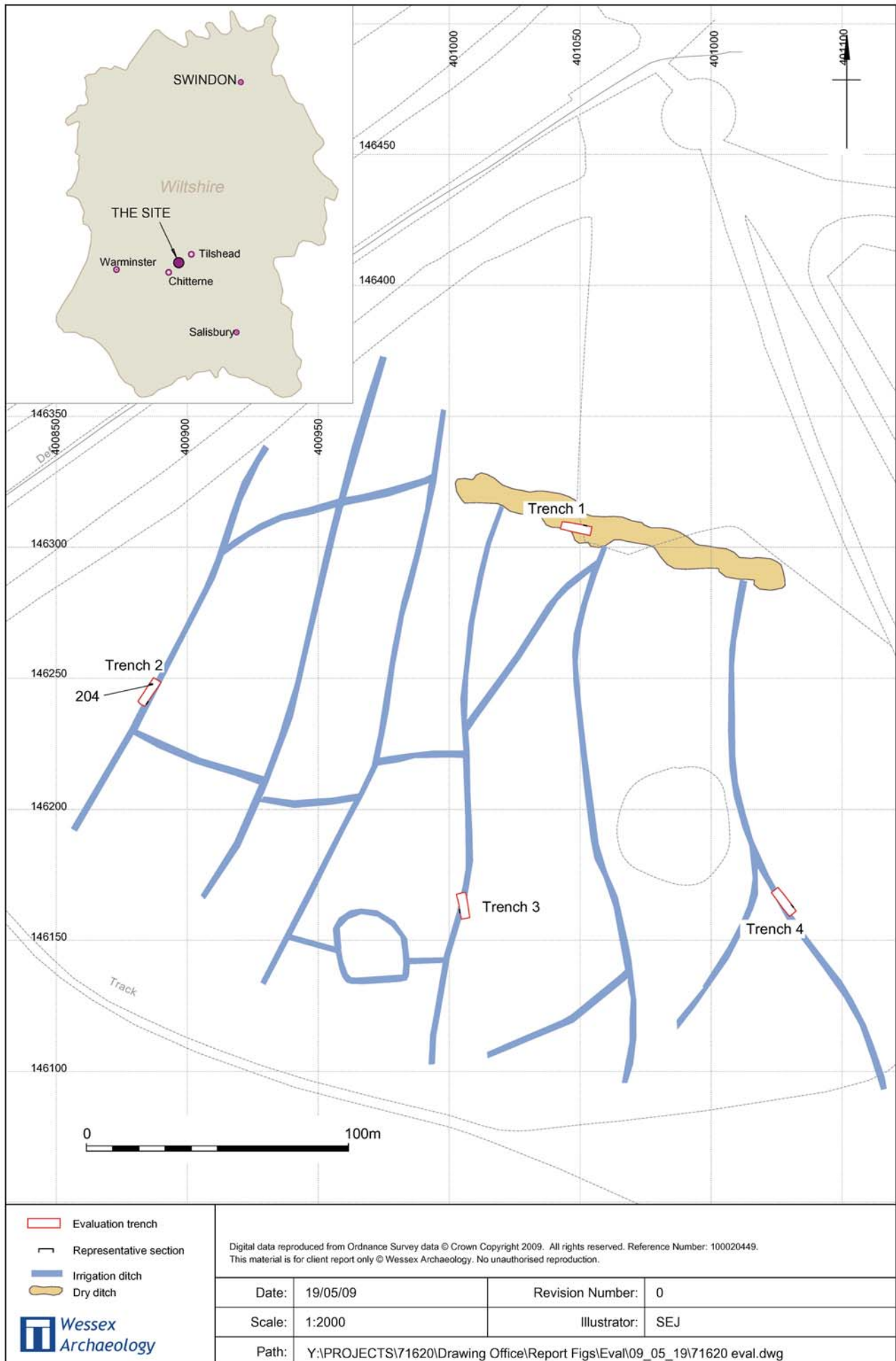
Table of Test Pit descriptions

Trench 1	Length	Width
	11.60m	3.10m
Context No	Description	Depth
100	<b>Topsoil.</b> Mid greyish brown clay silt with common root disturbance and bioturbation. Sparse sub-angular flint 3% <0.02m.	0 - 0.23m
101	<b>Subsoil.</b> Mid reddish brown with a yellowish hue, sparse flint (sub-angular) 10% <0.05m and chalk 2% <0.03m.	0.23 – 0.56m
102	<b>Layer.</b> Mid dark reddish brown silt clay. Caps Upper Chalk, abundant angular flint <0.04m 25%.	0.56 – 0.74m
103	<b>Natural.</b> Soliflucted Upper Chalk with common patches of clay with flints.	0.74m +

Trench 2	Length	Width
	10.37m	3.23m
Context No	Description	Depth
200	<b>Topsoil.</b> Mid greyish brown clay silt, with common root disturbance and bioturbation, sparse flint (sub-angular) 2% <0.02m	0 – 0.20m
201	<b>Subsoil.</b> Mid reddish brown silty clay, with sparse flint (sub-angular) 5% <0.05m.	0.20 – 0.46m
202	<b>Layer.</b> Mid to dark reddish brown silty clay, layer capping natural, abundant sub-angular flint 30%.	0.46 – 0.68m
203	<b>Natural.</b> Soliflucted Upper Chalk with clay with flints. Abundance of clay with flint.	0.68m +
204	Cut of linear terminus	
205	Fill of linear terminus	

Trench 3	Length	Width
	10m	3.40m
Context No	Description	Depth
300	<b>Topsoil.</b> Light greyish brown clay silt, with common root disturbance and bioturbation, sparse flint (sub-angular) 2% <0.02m and chalk inclusions.	0 – 0.28m
301	<b>Subsoil.</b> Light to mid reddish brown silty clay, with common flint (angular) 25%, rare chalk flecking throughout. Clay with flints.	0.28 – 0.55m
302	<b>Natural.</b> Upper Chalk, soliflucted with common patches of clay with flints.	0.55m +

Trench 4	Length	Width
	11.20m	3.20m
Context No	Description	Depth
400	<b>Topsoil.</b> Mid greyish brown silty clay, with abundant root disturbance and bioturbation, common flint inclusions 20% <0.03m	0 – 0.24m
401	<b>Natural.</b> Upper Chalk, with abundant patches clay with flints.	0.24m +



Location of trenches

Figure 1





Plate 1: Trench 1



Plate 2: Trench 1 representative section

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.



Date: 20/05/09

Revision Number: 0

Scale: N/A

Originator: SEJ

Path: Y:\PROJECTS\71620\Report Figures\Eval\09\_05\_19\A4\_PLATES 1&2.cdr





Plate 3: Trench 2



Plate 4: Trench 2 representative section


This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
 WA Heritage	Date:	20/05/09	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	N/A	Originator: SEJ
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\71620\Report Figures\Eval\09_05_19\A4_PLATES 3&4.cdr	





Plate 5: Trench 3



Plate 6: Trench 3 representative section


 WA Heritage	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date:	20/05/09	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	N/A	Originator: SEJ
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\71620\Report Figures\Eval\09_05_19\A4_PLATES 5&6.cdr	






Plate 7: Trench 4



Plate 8: Trench 4 representative section

 WA Heritage	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date:	20/05/09	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	N/A	Originator: SEJ
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\71620\Report Figures\Eval\09_05_19\A4_PLATES 7&8.cdr	





**WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.**

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

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 [info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:info@wessexarch.co.uk) [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

**Maidstone Office:** The Malthouse, The Oast, Weaving Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5JN.

Tel: 01622 739381 [info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:info@wessexarch.co.uk) [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

