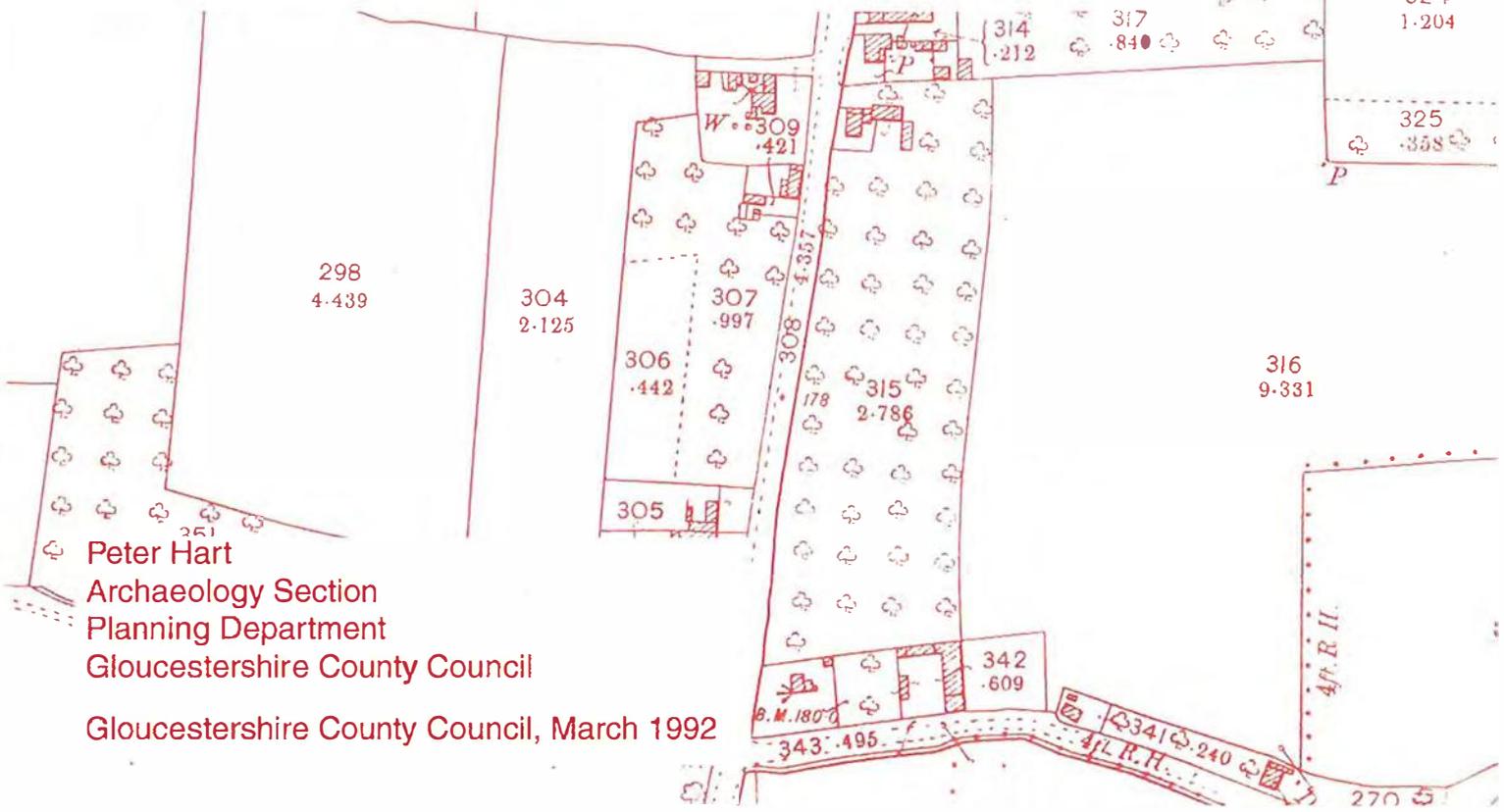


**HITCHINS PHASES 10 and 11
BISHOP'S CLEEVE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, JANUARY – FEBRUARY 1992



Peter Hart
 Archaeology Section
 Planning Department
 Gloucestershire County Council
 Gloucestershire County Council, March 1992

Glos 13232
SO 95602775

**Hitchins Phases 10 and 11, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire:
Archaeological Evaluation, January-February 1992**

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Hitchins Phases 10 and 11, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire: Archaeological evaluation, January-February 1992

1 Summary

In January and February 1992 the Archaeology Section of Gloucestershire County Council undertook an evaluation of c. 2.5 hectares of a proposed development area located at Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire. A sample of some 2% of the area was examined by the excavation of nine trial trenches. A number of features indicating the presence of a settlement dating to the later Romano-British period were located: on the basis of this evidence recommendations for archaeological recording in advance of construction are made.

2 Introduction

2.1 In January and February 1992 the Archaeology Section of Gloucestershire County Council undertook an evaluation of c. 2.5 hectares of land located at NGR SO 95602775 on the western edge of the village of Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire (fig 1). The work was commissioned by Robert Hitchins Ltd, in advance of a detailed planning application to construct housing on the site. No design of the proposed development is currently available.

2.2 Description of the proposed development area (fig 2)

The area of proposed development measures approximately 300m (east-west) by 100m (north-south) and lies within two pasture fields (truncated portions of OS land parcels 5478 and 6975) divided by a boundary aligned north-east to south-west. The field boundary marks an approximate division of the surface geology, Lower Lias clay being present to the west of the boundary, with a deposit of Cheltenham Sand to the east (Ordnance Survey 1981). Unlike many of the surrounding fields, there was no surface evidence for ridge and furrow earthworks and the fields were, for the most part, featureless. In OS land parcel 5478 a linear depression, c. 15m broad and aligned approximately north to south, was visible. In OS land parcel 6975 several slight, irregular, depressions suggested the former presence of small sand quarries.

2.3 Archaeological background

The Gloucestershire County Sites and Monuments Record does not list any areas of archaeological significance within the proposed development area. However, the locality contains a notable concentration of prehistoric and Romano-British sites. Approximately 100m north-east of the proposed development area, a middle to late iron age and an early Romano-British settlement was located and excavated during housing development at Gilder's

Hitchins Phases 10 and 11, Bishop's Cleeve
Glos 13232

Archaeological evaluation 1992: location

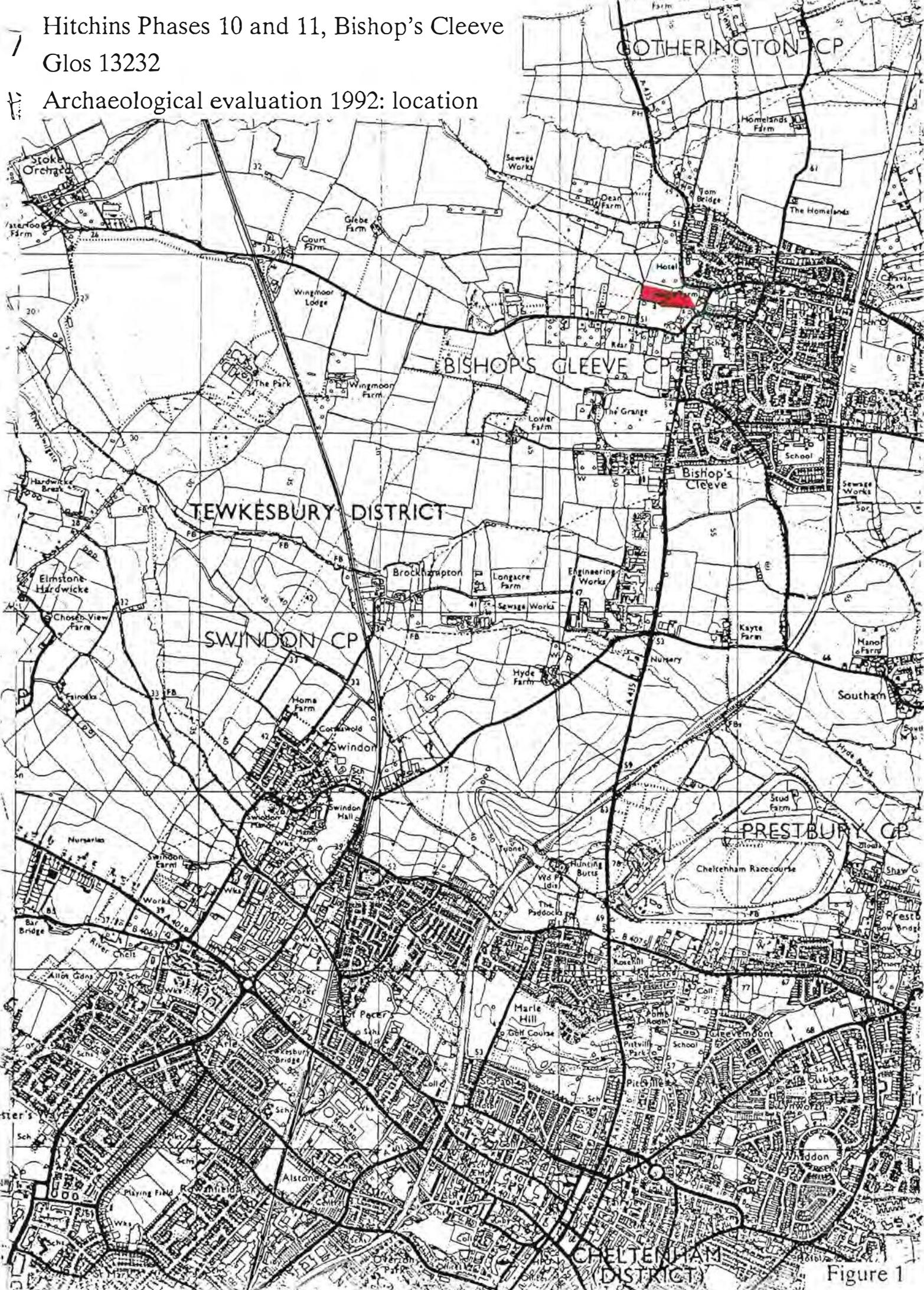


Figure 1

Paddock (Parry 1990a). To the north-west of the site, another settlement dating to the early Romano-British period was discovered during construction of the Gilder's Brook watercourse (Parry 1990b). The presence of neither of these sites was suspected prior to their discovery. Two further assessments on land immediately to the west of the evaluation area failed to produce any deposits of archaeological significance (Parry 1991a; Parry 1991b).

2.5 Evaluation method

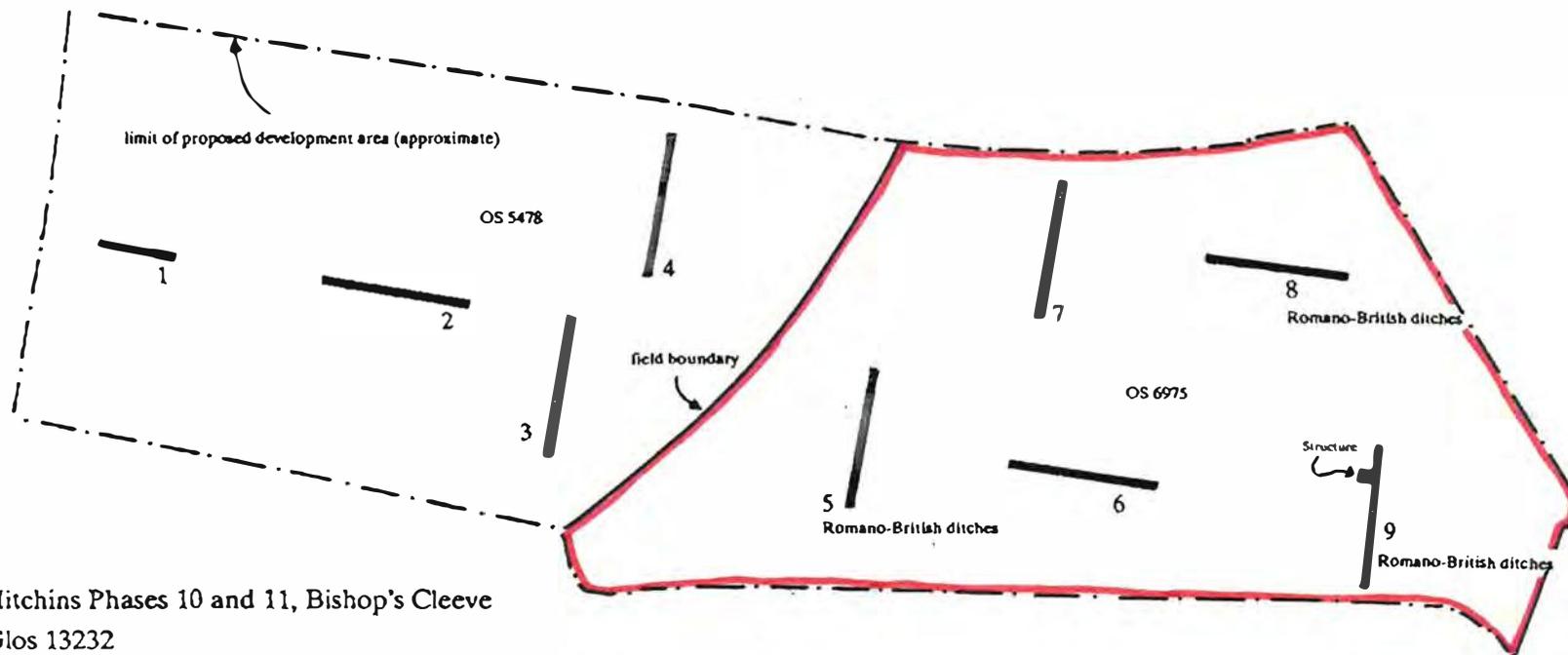
The objective of the evaluation was, therefore, to assess the archaeological significance of the proposed development site to determine whether archaeological deposits would be affected by development. A total of nine trenches were excavated (one measuring 15m by 2m, the remainder measuring 30m by 2m) to uncover a total area of c. 510 square metres or some 2% of the area of investigation. Topsoils and cultivated soils were removed by machine excavator to expose the uppermost surface of archaeological deposits, or natural subsoil where these were absent. Trenches 2 and 9 were positioned to sample anomalies in the ground surface, and the remainder were placed at random. The trench sections and surfaces were cleaned by hand and a sample of the archaeological deposits were excavated and recorded.

3 Description

3.1 Post Romano-British deposits

Removal of the turf and topsoil (c. 0.25m deep) forming the ground surface revealed, in most trenches, the uppermost surface of the subsoil. The topsoil, which produced finds of modern date, may have been formed by cultivation. Medieval cultivation of the site may also be suspected in view of the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks indicative of arable farming in neighbouring fields, but no conclusive evidence for this was found.

In Trench 9, three post-Roman features were identified. Much of the northern end of the trench was occupied by a large pit (context 955) measuring a minimum of 2.5m deep (but not bottomed) by 6m wide. The feature was not completely infilled, and the resulting hollow was visible on the ground surface prior to excavation, and extended north of the excavated area. Pit 955 can be interpreted as a sand quarry of modern date, although firm dating evidence was lacking. A pit cut into the backfill of the postulated quarry, context 953, contained a modern horse burial. A third modern feature of uncertain function, context 910, was located in the approximate centre of the trench, measuring c. 0.7m wide by 1.4m deep.



Hitchens Phases 10 and 11, Bishop's Cleeve
 Glos 13232
 Archaeological evaluation 1992

Key

1-9 Evaluation trenches

— Area of archaeological significance

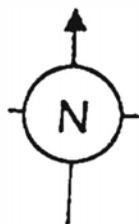


Figure 2

3.2 Topographical feature of uncertain date

Excavation of Trench 2 sampled a linear depression measuring c. 20m broad which was visible as a surface anomaly prior to excavation. This revealed silty deposits, indicating perhaps that the depression represents a relict stream course: no evidence was found to suggest a date when the former stream functioned.

3.3 Romano-British deposits

3.3.1 Significant archaeological deposits dating to the Romano-British period were identified in Trenches 5, 8 and 9.

3.3.2 Trench 5

Located some 6.5m from the southern end of the trench, ditch 501 was aligned north-east to south-west, and measured 1.8m wide by 0.69m deep. Its primary fill, context 510, was a 0.18m thick deposit of dark greyish brown friable silty clay. This deposit had been truncated by a recut of the ditch, which was filled with context 505, a dark greyish brown clay silt containing fragments of sandstone.

At approximately the centre of the trench was a shallow irregular feature, context 503, measuring c. 6m wide by 0.25m deep with an uneven base. The feature is of uncertain function, its clay-silt fills (contexts 510 and 511) might, however, suggest a small pond.

At the northern end of Trench 5 was the terminal-end of a ditch, context 502, measuring c. 1.5m wide by 0.28m deep. The ditch had steep sides and a flat but irregular bottom. Ditch 502 was filled with context 507, a dark yellowish brown silty clay.

3.3.3 Trench 8

Trench 8 contained two ditches aligned north-west to south-east.

Located at the extreme western end of the trench, ditch 802 measured 0.55m wide by 0.18m deep with a rounded bottom and sides. The fill (812) was a firm greyish brown silty clay.

Aligned similarly, and located towards the centre of Trench 8, was ditch 801. This measured 1.28m wide by 0.31m deep, and was filled by context 816, a firm dark greyish brown silty clay.

Trench 8 also contained a series of post-holes. These features (contexts 803, 804, 805 and 806) ran in a line down the centre of the trench whilst another (context

807) lay against the southern edge of the trench. The post-holes ranged between 0.06m and 0.2m in depth and between 0.19m and 0.21m in diameter. Their fills contained no dateable finds and their significance is not certain.

3.3.4 Trench 9

Excavation of Trench 9 revealed four ditches. Additionally, a structure was revealed within a small extension to the western side of the trench.

The largest of the ditches, context 902, was located at the middle of the trench, aligned north-east to south-west. The ditch measured 1.9m wide by 1.1m deep, and was filled with a dark clayey silt, context 960, which was truncated by a recut, c. 0.38m deep, containing context 951.

Located at the southern end of the trench was a length of ditch, context 918, measuring 0.67m wide by 0.26m deep which was aligned north-east to south-west. Its fill, context 920, was a dark silty clay incorporating fragments of limestone.

To the north of ditch 918 was a ditch complex comprised of three strands (contexts 901, 903 and 915). Context 901 (measuring 0.9m wide by 0.38m deep) may represent the primary feature, being cut by context 903 (which measured 0.7m wide by 0.6m deep). No relationship of these features with the third ditch, context 915, was ascertained, but this measured only 0.4m wide by 0.09m deep. All three ditches had dark, clayey silt fills.

A fourth, shallow, ditch, context 912, was aligned east-west across the trench. It measured approximately 0.5m wide by 0.11m deep, and contained large blocks of limestone, possibly building debris, up to 0.3m by 0.3m by 0.2m.

A structure, located in the 3m square extension on the west side of Trench 9, was represented by short lengths of wall forming three sides of a rectangle c. 1.4m wide and a minimum of 1.6m long. The walling (contexts 909, 934 and 935) was constructed of limestone blocks up to 0.25m long by 0.16m wide. No bonding agent was present in two of the elevations: context 935, however, was bonded with a lime mortar. A maximum of nine courses of single-skin walling, forming elevations up to 0.87m high, were present. The walls can be interpreted as foundation courses, constructed directly adjacent to a foundation cut.

The date of the walling is uncertain. The space within the rectangle of masonry was filled by context 937, a dark silty clay containing finds of Romano-British date.

The structure may, therefore, date to the Romano-British period. Alternatively, it is possible that the structure is post-Roman in date, the Romano-British finds from the

associated deposit, context 937, being residual fragments disturbed from earlier features located nearby. Nevertheless, finds of a highly distinctive Roman flooring cement (opus signinum) found within the fill of ditch 902, suggest that a structure was present in the vicinity during the Roman-British period. If Roman, the walling detected in Trench 9 must represent a tiny portion of a larger building.

4 Finds

4.1 Pottery

The Romano-British pottery recovered from the excavated features in Trenches 5, 8 and 9 spans in date the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. No detailed analysis of the assemblage has been undertaken, but a preliminary view suggests that a range of vessel forms and pottery fabrics are present. Severn Valley wares and Black Burnished ware make up the majority of the group; Oxfordshire colour-coated ware and mortaria are also present in some quantity. At least one complete Severn Valley ware vessel is present, and many sherds are large and unabraded.

4.2 Animal bone

A small quantity of animal bone was recovered. No detailed identification of individual species has been carried out but sheep, pig, and cattle appear to be represented.

4.3 Other finds

Trench 9 produced a range of other finds, including: two coins probably dating to the 3rd century AD; a fragment of shale bracelet; a copper-alloy spearhead; two fragments of glass, and an unidentified iron object. In addition, two sections of floor-tile and some fragments of opus signinum (a pinkish-grey flooring concrete) were observed in the fill of ditch 901.

5 Interpretation

The archaeological features sampled in Trenches 5, 8 and 9 can be interpreted as elements of a rural settlement occupied during the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. Ditches are the major feature type represented, and the conforming alignments of these (either north-west to south-east or south-west to north-east) suggest that the ditches form a complex of adjoining rectilinear enclosures. This settlement morphology is well attested in the Severn Vale during the iron age and Romano-British periods, and a large scale excavation of one example at Beckford, Hereford and Worcester, has been excavated in recent years, demonstrating that such enclosures served as

boundaries delineating discrete zones which functioned as areas of habitation, food storage, agricultural and industrial activity (Wills forthcoming).

The limited sample of the archaeological deposits obtained during the evaluation does not allow a detailed plan or interpretation of the enclosure complex to be presented. A concentration of finds in the vicinity of Trench 9 may suggest that this area served as a focus for domestic occupation. That a Romano-British building lay in this area is additionally suggested by fragments of opus signinum flooring material and blocks of rubblestone; no certain date can be offered for the structure found in situ, but this may represent a portion of a structure from which the debris was derived.

6 State of preservation: archaeological potential

6.1 State of preservation

Some form of post-Roman activity, almost certainly ploughing, has resulted in the erosion of much of the vertical stratigraphy with the result that no surfaces contemporary with the settlement survive. Archaeology is, therefore, preserved discretely within features cut into subsoil. The degree of truncation of the ancient land surface is uncertain, because the original dimensions of the excavated features are unknown. However, the fact that some ditches survive to a depth of over 1m in depth indicates that substantial archaeological deposits have survived. Some features of modern date, located in Trench 9, have also disturbed the archaeology, but there was no evidence from other trenches to suggest that a substantial proportion of the Romano-British deposits have been affected.

The distribution of the archaeology indicates that the majority of the proposed development area lying within OS land parcel 6975, measuring c. 1.25 hectares, contains significant archaeological deposits (fig 2). Interestingly, this area corresponds approximately with the distribution of geological deposits of Cheltenham Sand.

6.2 Archaeological potential

No excavation of a late Romano-British rural settlement in the Gloucestershire Severn Vale has been undertaken. Potential exists for the definition of the settlement complex and the documentation of its development over time. Of particular interest is the potential importance of the structure defined in Trench 9: if Roman, recovery of its relationship to the enclosure complex would yield significant information for an understanding of the development of the site. Additionally, scope exists for the study of the well-preserved pottery and animal bone assemblages which further excavation would yield.

Lastly, an interesting aspect of the site is its possible relationship with the iron age and early Romano-British settlement at Gilder's Paddock, located only 100m to the east. Geologically, both sites are located on the same island of Cheltenham Sand, and excavation may reveal their inter-relationship.

7 Recommendations

7.1 Introduction

The state of preservation of the archaeology contained in the eastern portion of the proposed development site (6.1) does not indicate that the deposits are of national importance and would merit preservation in situ. Nevertheless, the archaeological potential of the site (6.2) indicates that further excavation, leading to preservation by record, would be an appropriate response should this area be developed. Such a programme of work would be in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (November 1990) where the necessity for securing recording of significant archaeological deposits in advance of construction is recognized.

7.2 Recommendations

7.2.1 OS land parcel 6975

It is recommended that construction within OS land parcel 6975 should be preceded by an appropriate programme of work to record significant archaeological deposits in advance of their destruction.

7.2.2 OS land parcel 5478

In the absence of evidence for the presence of significant archaeological deposits within OS land parcel 5478, it is recommended that no further archaeological work in this area should take place in advance of construction.

7.2.3 Watching brief during construction

It is recommended that a watching brief is undertaken within OS land parcel 5478 to observe any significant archaeological deposits not predicted by the evaluation.

8 References

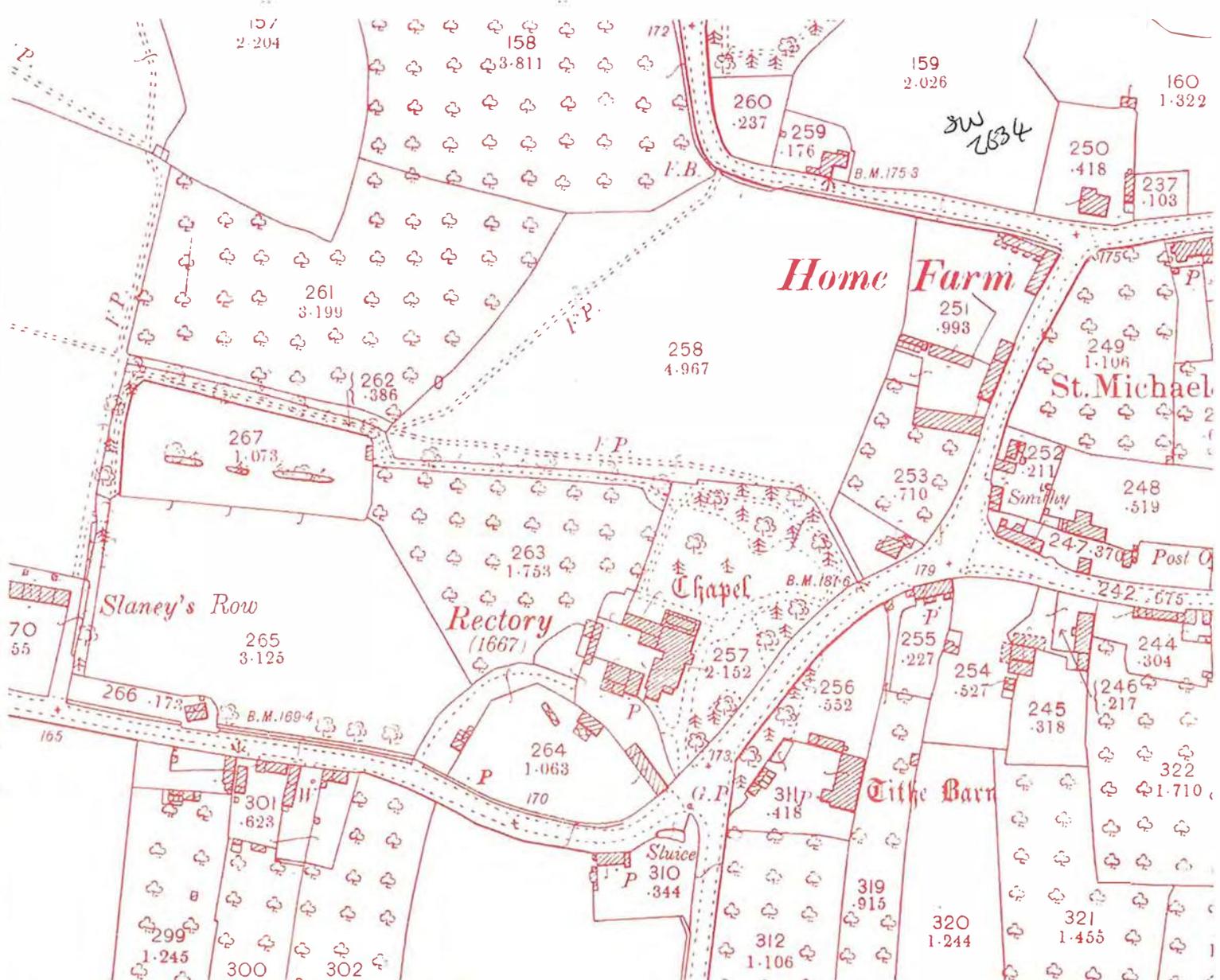
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Abbreviations

- OD Height above Ordnance Survey datum point
- OS Ordnance Survey
- TBGAS Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire
Archaeological Society

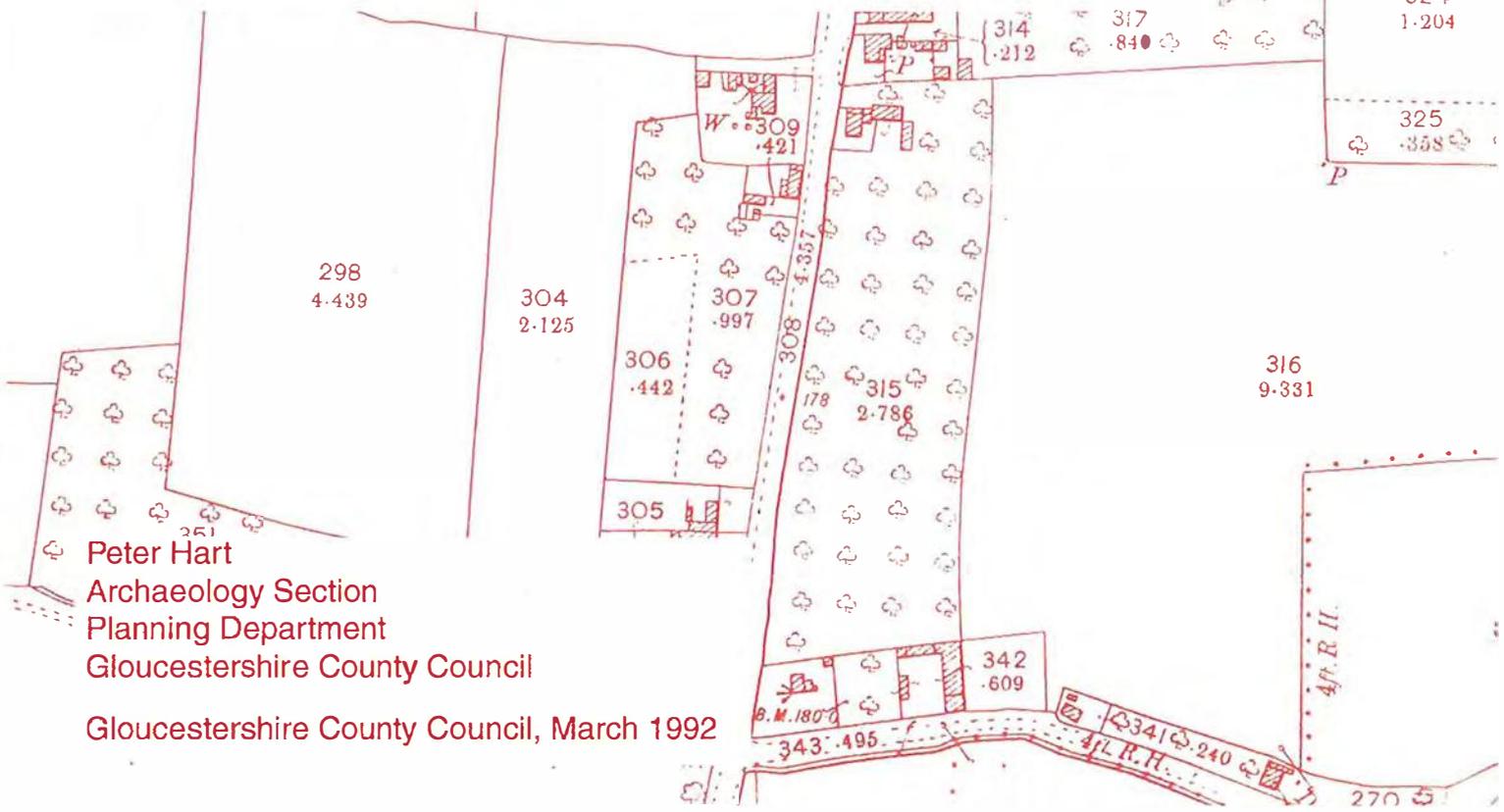
Aknowledgements

Robert Hitchins Ltd supplied excavation machinery to open the trenches. Excavation was carried out by Derek Goult, Robert Nicholls, Michael Simms and John Smith.



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1 Summary

In January and February 1992 the Archaeology Section of Gloucestershire County Council undertook an evaluation of c. 2.5 hectares of a proposed development area located at Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire. A sample of some 2% of the area was examined by the excavation of nine trial trenches. A number of features indicating the presence of a settlement dating to the later Romano-British period were located: on the basis of this evidence recommendations for archaeological recording in advance of construction are made.

2 Introduction

2.1 In January and February 1992 the Archaeology Section of Gloucestershire County Council undertook an evaluation of c. 2.5 hectares of land located at NGR SO 95602775 on the western edge of the village of Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire (fig 1). The work was commissioned by Robert Hitchins Ltd, in advance of a detailed planning application to construct housing on the site. No design of the proposed development is currently available.

2.2 Description of the proposed development area (fig 2)

The area of proposed development measures approximately 300m (east-west) by 100m (north-south) and lies within two pasture fields (truncated portions of OS land parcels 5478 and 6975) divided by a boundary aligned north-east to south-west. The field boundary marks an approximate division of the surface geology, Lower Lias clay being present to the west of the boundary, with a deposit of Cheltenham Sand to the east (Ordnance Survey 1981). Unlike many of the surrounding fields, there was no surface evidence for ridge and furrow earthworks and the fields were, for the most part, featureless. In OS land parcel 5478 a linear depression, c. 15m broad and aligned approximately north to south, was visible. In OS land parcel 6975 several slight, irregular, depressions suggested the former presence of small sand quarries.

2.3 Archaeological background

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Archaeological evaluation 1992: location

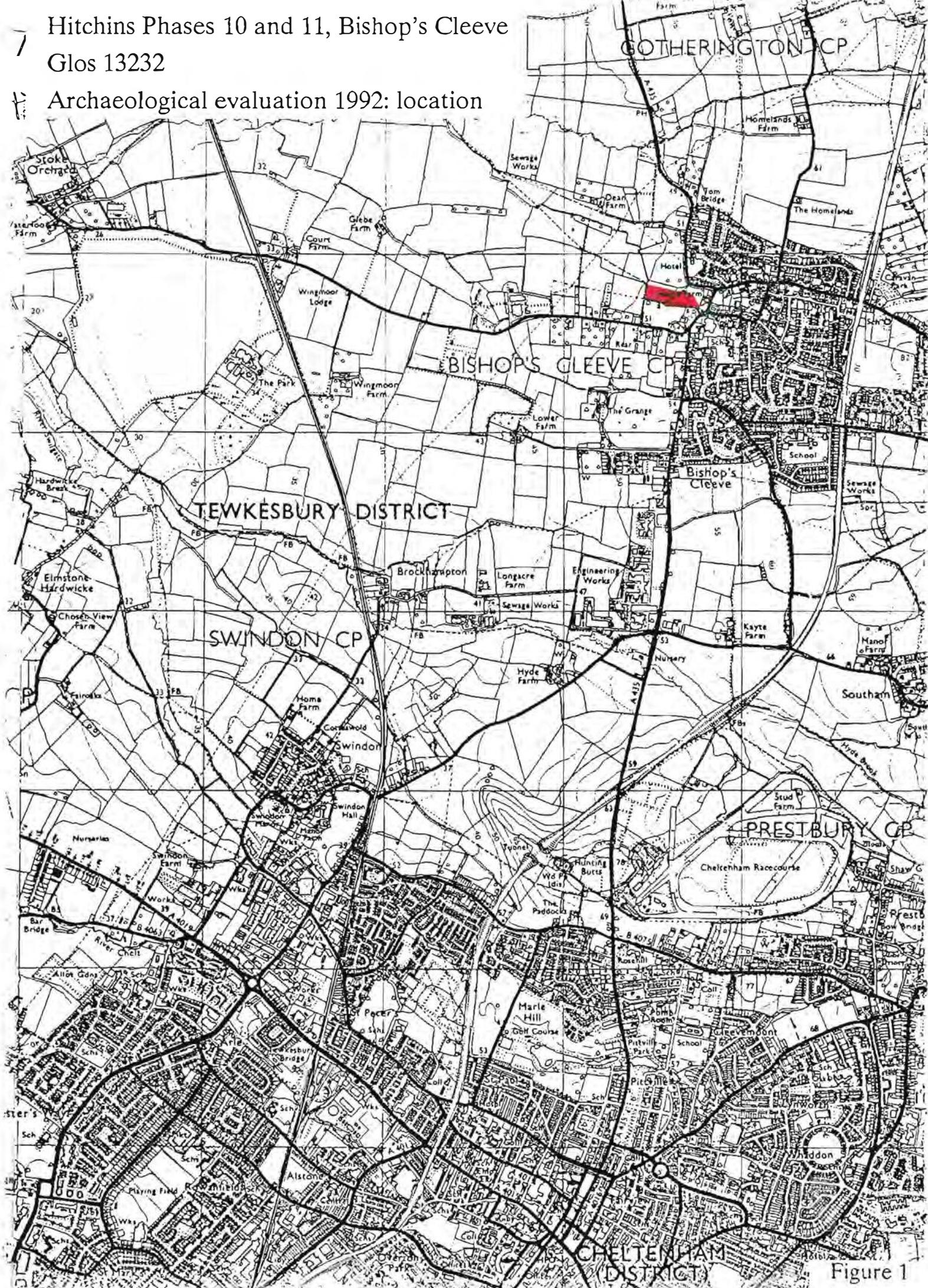


Figure 1

Paddock (Parry 1990a). To the north-west of the site, another settlement dating to the early Romano-British period was discovered during construction of the Gilder's Brook watercourse (Parry 1990b). The presence of neither of these sites was suspected prior to their discovery. Two further assessments on land immediately to the west of the evaluation area failed to produce any deposits of archaeological significance (Parry 1991a; Parry 1991b).

2.5 Evaluation method

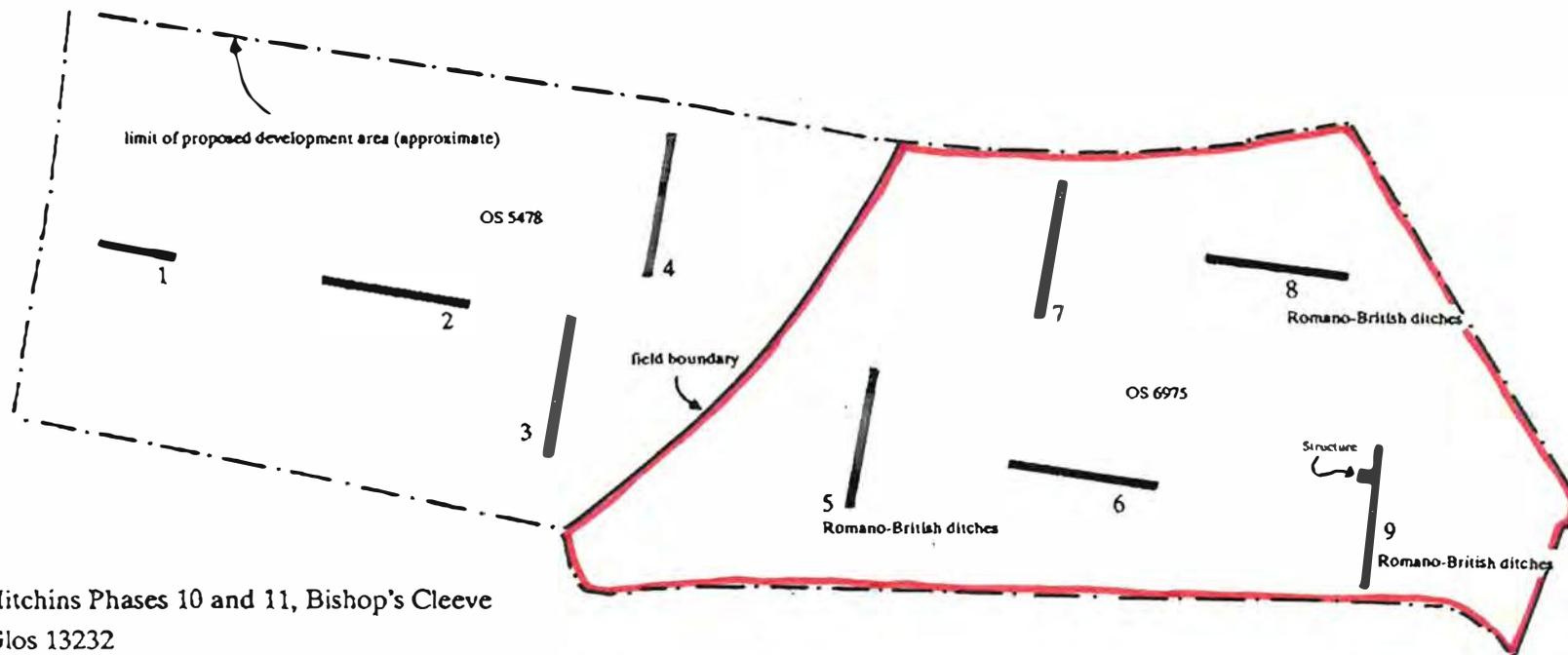
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3 Description

3.1 Post Romano-British deposits

Removal of the turf and topsoil (c. 0.25m deep) forming the ground surface revealed, in most trenches, the uppermost surface of the subsoil. The topsoil, which produced finds of modern date, may have been formed by cultivation. Medieval cultivation of the site may also be suspected in view of the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks indicative of arable farming in neighbouring fields, but no conclusive evidence for this was found.

In Trench 9, three post-Roman features were identified. Much of the northern end of the trench was occupied by a large pit (context 955) measuring a minimum of 2.5m deep (but not bottomed) by 6m wide. The feature was not completely infilled, and the resulting hollow was visible on the ground surface prior to excavation, and extended north of the excavated area. Pit 955 can be interpreted as a sand quarry of modern date, although firm dating evidence was lacking. A pit cut into the backfill of the postulated quarry, context 953, contained a modern horse burial. A third modern feature of uncertain function, context 910, was located in the approximate centre of the trench, measuring c. 0.7m wide by 1.4m deep.



Hitchens Phases 10 and 11, Bishop's Cleeve
 Glos 13232
 Archaeological evaluation 1992

Key

1-9 Evaluation trenches

— Area of archaeological significance

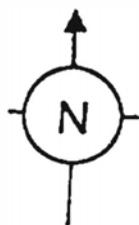


Figure 2

3.2 Topographical feature of uncertain date

Excavation of Trench 2 sampled a linear depression measuring c. 20m broad which was visible as a surface anomaly prior to excavation. This revealed silty deposits, indicating perhaps that the depression represents a relict stream course: no evidence was found to suggest a date when the former stream functioned.

3.3 Romano-British deposits

3.3.1 Significant archaeological deposits dating to the Romano-British period were identified in Trenches 5, 8 and 9.

3.3.2 Trench 5

Located some 6.5m from the southern end of the trench, ditch 501 was aligned north-east to south-west, and measured 1.8m wide by 0.69m deep. Its primary fill, context 510, was a 0.18m thick deposit of dark greyish brown friable silty clay. This deposit had been truncated by a recut of the ditch, which was filled with context 505, a dark greyish brown clay silt containing fragments of sandstone.

At approximately the centre of the trench was a shallow irregular feature, context 503, measuring c. 6m wide by 0.25m deep with an uneven base. The feature is of uncertain function, its clay-silt fills (contexts 510 and 511) might, however, suggest a small pond.

At the northern end of Trench 5 was the terminal-end of a ditch, context 502, measuring c. 1.5m wide by 0.28m deep. The ditch had steep sides and a flat but irregular bottom. Ditch 502 was filled with context 507, a dark yellowish brown silty clay.

3.3.3 Trench 8

Trench 8 contained two ditches aligned north-west to south-east.

Located at the extreme western end of the trench, ditch 802 measured 0.55m wide by 0.18m deep with a rounded bottom and sides. The fill (812) was a firm greyish brown silty clay.

Aligned similarly, and located towards the centre of Trench 8, was ditch 801. This measured 1.28m wide by 0.31m deep, and was filled by context 816, a firm dark greyish brown silty clay.

Trench 8 also contained a series of post-holes. These features (contexts 803, 804, 805 and 806) ran in a line down the centre of the trench whilst another (context

807) lay against the southern edge of the trench. The post-holes ranged between 0.06m and 0.2m in depth and between 0.19m and 0.21m in diameter. Their fills contained no dateable finds and their significance is not certain.

3.3.4 Trench 9

Excavation of Trench 9 revealed four ditches. Additionally, a structure was revealed within a small extension to the western side of the trench.

The largest of the ditches, context 902, was located at the middle of the trench, aligned north-east to south-west. The ditch measured 1.9m wide by 1.1m deep, and was filled with a dark clayey silt, context 960, which was truncated by a recut, c. 0.38m deep, containing context 951.

Located at the southern end of the trench was a length of ditch, context 918, measuring 0.67m wide by 0.26m deep which was aligned north-east to south-west. Its fill, context 920, was a dark silty clay incorporating fragments of limestone.

To the north of ditch 918 was a ditch complex comprised of three strands (contexts 901, 903 and 915). Context 901 (measuring 0.9m wide by 0.38m deep) may represent the primary feature, being cut by context 903 (which measured 0.7m wide by 0.6m deep). No relationship of these features with the third ditch, context 915, was ascertained, but this measured only 0.4m wide by 0.09m deep. All three ditches had dark, clayey silt fills.

A fourth, shallow, ditch, context 912, was aligned east-west across the trench. It measured approximately 0.5m wide by 0.11m deep, and contained large blocks of limestone, possibly building debris, up to 0.3m by 0.3m by 0.2m.

A structure, located in the 3m square extension on the west side of Trench 9, was represented by short lengths of wall forming three sides of a rectangle c. 1.4m wide and a minimum of 1.6m long. The walling (contexts 909, 934 and 935) was constructed of limestone blocks up to 0.25m long by 0.16m wide. No bonding agent was present in two of the elevations: context 935, however, was bonded with a lime mortar. A maximum of nine courses of single-skin walling, forming elevations up to 0.87m high, were present. The walls can be interpreted as foundation courses, constructed directly adjacent to a foundation cut.

The date of the walling is uncertain. The space within the rectangle of masonry was filled by context 937, a dark silty clay containing finds of Romano-British date.

The structure may, therefore, date to the Romano-British period. Alternatively, it is possible that the structure is post-Roman in date, the Romano-British finds from the

associated deposit, context 937, being residual fragments disturbed from earlier features located nearby. Nevertheless, finds of a highly distinctive Roman flooring cement (opus signinum) found within the fill of ditch 902, suggest that a structure was present in the vicinity during the Roman-British period. If Roman, the walling detected in Trench 9 must represent a tiny portion of a larger building.

4 Finds

4.1 Pottery

The Romano-British pottery recovered from the excavated features in Trenches 5, 8 and 9 spans in date the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. No detailed analysis of the assemblage has been undertaken, but a preliminary view suggests that a range of vessel forms and pottery fabrics are present. Severn Valley wares and Black Burnished ware make up the majority of the group; Oxfordshire colour-coated ware and mortaria are also present in some quantity. At least one complete Severn Valley ware vessel is present, and many sherds are large and unabraded.

4.2 Animal bone

A small quantity of animal bone was recovered. No detailed identification of individual species has been carried out but sheep, pig, and cattle appear to be represented.

4.3 Other finds

Trench 9 produced a range of other finds, including: two coins probably dating to the 3rd century AD; a fragment of shale bracelet; a copper-alloy spearhead; two fragments of glass, and an unidentified iron object. In addition, two sections of floor-tile and some fragments of opus signinum (a pinkish-grey flooring concrete) were observed in the fill of ditch 901.

5 Interpretation

The archaeological features sampled in Trenches 5, 8 and 9 can be interpreted as elements of a rural settlement occupied during the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. Ditches are the major feature type represented, and the conforming alignments of these (either north-west to south-east or south-west to north-east) suggest that the ditches form a complex of adjoining rectilinear enclosures. This settlement morphology is well attested in the Severn Vale during the iron age and Romano-British periods, and a large scale excavation of one example at Beckford, Hereford and Worcester, has been excavated in recent years, demonstrating that such enclosures served as

boundaries delineating discrete zones which functioned as areas of habitation, food storage, agricultural and industrial activity (Wills forthcoming).

The limited sample of the archaeological deposits obtained during the evaluation does not allow a detailed plan or interpretation of the enclosure complex to be presented. A concentration of finds in the vicinity of Trench 9 may suggest that this area served as a focus for domestic occupation. That a Romano-British building lay in this area is additionally suggested by fragments of opus signinum flooring material and blocks of rubblestone; no certain date can be offered for the structure found in situ, but this may represent a portion of a structure from which the debris was derived.

6 State of preservation: archaeological potential

6.1 State of preservation

Some form of post-Roman activity, almost certainly ploughing, has resulted in the erosion of much of the vertical stratigraphy with the result that no surfaces contemporary with the settlement survive. Archaeology is, therefore, preserved discretely within features cut into subsoil. The degree of truncation of the ancient land surface is uncertain, because the original dimensions of the excavated features are unknown. However, the fact that some ditches survive to a depth of over 1m in depth indicates that substantial archaeological deposits have survived. Some features of modern date, located in Trench 9, have also disturbed the archaeology, but there was no evidence from other trenches to suggest that a substantial proportion of the Romano-British deposits have been affected.

The distribution of the archaeology indicates that the majority of the proposed development area lying within OS land parcel 6975, measuring c. 1.25 hectares, contains significant archaeological deposits (fig 2). Interestingly, this area corresponds approximately with the distribution of geological deposits of Cheltenham Sand.

6.2 Archaeological potential

No excavation of a late Romano-British rural settlement in the Gloucestershire Severn Vale has been undertaken. Potential exists for the definition of the settlement complex and the documentation of its development over time. Of particular interest is the potential importance of the structure defined in Trench 9: if Roman, recovery of its relationship to the enclosure complex would yield significant information for an understanding of the development of the site. Additionally, scope exists for the study of the well-preserved pottery and animal bone assemblages which further excavation would yield.

Lastly, an interesting aspect of the site is its possible relationship with the iron age and early Romano-British settlement at Gilder's Paddock, located only 100m to the east. Geologically, both sites are located on the same island of Cheltenham Sand, and excavation may reveal their inter-relationship.

7 Recommendations

7.1 Introduction

The state of preservation of the archaeology contained in the eastern portion of the proposed development site (6.1) does not indicate that the deposits are of national importance and would merit preservation in situ. Nevertheless, the archaeological potential of the site (6.2) indicates that further excavation, leading to preservation by record, would be an appropriate response should this area be developed. Such a programme of work would be in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (November 1990) where the necessity for securing recording of significant archaeological deposits in advance of construction is recognized.

7.2 Recommendations

7.2.1 OS land parcel 6975

It is recommended that construction within OS land parcel 6975 should be preceded by an appropriate programme of work to record significant archaeological deposits in advance of their destruction.

7.2.2 OS land parcel 5478

In the absence of evidence for the presence of significant archaeological deposits within OS land parcel 5478, it is recommended that no further archaeological work in this area should take place in advance of construction.

7.2.3 Watching brief during construction

It is recommended that a watching brief is undertaken within OS land parcel 5478 to observe any significant archaeological deposits not predicted by the evaluation.

8 References

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Abbreviations

- OD Height above Ordnance Survey datum point
- OS Ordnance Survey
- TBGAS Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire
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