

**HOMELEAZE FARM  
SOUTHROP  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**H. F. HART LTD**

CA PROJECT: 2909  
CA REPORT: 09125

JULY 2009




**COTSWOLD  
ARCHAEOLOGY**

HOMELEAZE FARM  
SOUTHROP  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2909  
CA REPORT: 09125

prepared by	Alistair Barber, Senior Project Officer
date	23 July 2009
checked by	Laurent Coleman, Project Manager
date	28 July 2009
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	29 July 2009
issue	01

*This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.*

## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
2. RESULTS .....	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM .....	6
5. REFERENCES .....	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	8
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	10

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)  
Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features (1:1000)  
Fig. 3 Trench 1: section AA (1:20) and photograph

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Homeleaze Farm  
**Location:** Southrop, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SP 174 042  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 20 - 21 July 2009  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with the Corinium Museum  
**Site Code:** HOM 09

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2009 on land at Homeleaze Farm, Southrop, Gloucestershire. Eight trenches were excavated.

An undated ditch was identified. This feature corresponded with the orientation and plotted location of a cropmark identified from aerial photographs.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for H. F. Hart Ltd on land at Homeleaze Farm, Southrop, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 174 042; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application to Cotswold District Council (CDC) for the development of the site for an anaerobic digester and associated structures.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (GCC 2009), an email (dated 30 June 2009) outlining the requirement for an archaeological evaluation issued by Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) that was approved by Charles Parry (GCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* issued by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Section (1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE) (English Heritage 2006).

### ***The site***

1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.89ha, and comprises a field located between Homeleaze Farm and a group of agricultural buildings (Fig. 2). Ground level varies from approximately 116.5m to 117m AOD.

1.4 The geology of the site is recorded as rubbly shell-detrital ooidal limestone of the Forest Marble Formation of the Great Oolite Group (BGS 1998). Limestone brash and yellow sandy-clay deposits were encountered within all of the evaluation trenches.

### ***Archaeological background***

1.5 A search of the Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was undertaken by CA prior to compilation of the WSI. The Thames Valley National Mapping Project (NMP) has identified a complex of cropmarks immediately to the south of the site from aerial photographs (Fig. 2, SMR Ref 3303). The complex appears to represent a rectangular enclosure, approximately 140m in length and

105m in width. A rounded corner of the putative enclosure lies immediately south of the site. Gaps in the circuit may relate to entrances, one of which lies immediately to the south of the site. However, these gaps may also represent lengths of degraded or less visible cropmarks. No associated earthworks or extant features were recorded during a field inspection of the cropmarks in 1966. A small quantity of finds, including worked flint, was located on the surface in the vicinity of the complex.

- 1.6 Several linear cropmarks are also recorded in the vicinity of the enclosure (SMR Ref 26615). One of these cropmarks appears to cut through a possible entrance to the enclosure, and extends into the site on an approximately north/south orientation. Further linear features included within the same SMR entry lie to the south-west of the enclosure.
- 1.7 A small discrete cropmark, interpreted as a gravel pit, is recorded by the NMP approximately 50m to the south-west of the site. (SMR Ref 26616)
- 1.8 A second complex of cropmarks has been recorded approximately 300m to the west of the site. A double line of linear cropmarks on an east/west orientation may represent a double ditched trackway (SMR Ref 26619). Although on an approximate alignment with the site, there is no evidence from the NMP to suggest it extends into the site. A second, much smaller, cropmark enclosure has also been recorded immediately to the south-east of the trackway (SMR Ref 26618). Additional linear cropmarks (SMR Ref 26622), a number of gravel pits (SMR Ref 26621), and possible field boundaries (SMR Ref 26620; SMR Ref 26617) have all been recorded in this area.
- 1.9 A large cropmark enclosure is recorded by the Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments record, 300m to the east of the site (SMR Ref 2479). This location does not correspond to cropmarks recorded from aerial photographs and the SMR entry suggests it may be a duplicate, incorrectly sited record.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.10 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Cotswold District Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

### **Methodology**

- 1.11 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of eight trenches, measuring 25m in length by 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The locations of trenches 4 and 7 were amended from those agreed in the WSI due to the presence of arable crops, with the approval of Mr Parry.
- 1.12 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.13 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) but none required sampling. No artefacts were encountered.
- 1.14 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the Corinium Museum, Cirencester. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS**

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 During the evaluation a single undated ditch was identified in trench 1 and stone land drains were identified in trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified in all of the trenches; undisturbed natural substrate, comprising limestone brash, was revealed in all of the trenches at a depth of c. 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil, up to c. 0.25m thick, which was in turn sealed by topsoil up to c. 0.26m thick.

**Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3)**

- 2.3 Ditch 105 was identified at the centre of the trench, cutting the natural limestone brash 102. It was orientated north/south, had a V-shaped profile and contained a single stony fill 106 which did not contain any artefactual material. A north-east/south-west orientated land drain 103 was also noted at the western end of the trench.

**3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The evaluation identified a single, north/south orientated ditch within trench 1. This corresponded with the orientation and plotted position of a broadly north/south orientated cropmark (county SMR Ref. 26615) previously identified from aerial photographs by the Thames Valley National Mapping Project. No artefactual material was recovered from the fill of this feature and the nature of it remains uncertain from the limited view afforded by evaluation trenching. The possibility that the ditch was associated with the cropmark enclosure located to the south of the site cannot be discounted.
- 3.2 Although the cropmark was plotted as running through much of the eastern part of the site, no corresponding feature was identified within trench 3. A north-east/south-west-aligned land drain was identified in this trench suggesting that the northward continuation of the cropmark may represent the land drain.

**4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber, assisted by Caroline Butler and Heather Griggs. The report was written by Alistair Barber. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Alistair Barber, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.



## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1998 *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales), Sheet 235 : Cirencester. Solid and Drift edition*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Homeleaze Farm, Southrop, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

GCC (Gloucestershire County Council) 2009 *Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS****Trench 1**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Deposit	Turf and topsoil: dark grey-brown clay-silt			0.24	
101	Deposit	Subsoil: brown silt-clay			0.24	
102	Deposit	Natural substrate: limestone brash and yellow clay				
103	Cut	Land drain		0.3	n/k	
104	Fill	F/O 103. Pitched limestone brash fragments.		0.3	n/k	
105	Cut	North/south-aligned ditch. V-shaped with steeply-sloping sides and concave base		1.1	0.5	
106	Fill	F/O 105. Mid-brown gritty, stony, clay with sparse flecks/smears of charcoal and heavily-degraded fired clay, pottery or tile		1.1	0.5	

**Trench 2**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Deposit	Turf and topsoil: dark grey-brown clay-silt			0.27	
201	Deposit	Subsoil: brown silt-clay			0.15	
202	Deposit	Natural substrate: limestone brash and yellow clay				

**Trench 3**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Deposit	Turf and topsoil: dark grey-brown clay-silt			0.25	
301	Deposit	Subsoil: brown silt-clay			0.12	
302	Deposit	Natural substrate: limestone brash and yellow clay				
303	Cut	Land drain		0.3	n/k	
304	Fill	F/O 303. Pitched limestone brash fragments.		0.3	n/k	

**Trench 4**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Deposit	Turf and topsoil: dark grey-brown clay-silt			0.24	
401	Deposit	Subsoil: brown silt-clay			0.11	
402	Deposit	Natural substrate: limestone brash and yellow clay				
403	Cut	Land drain		0.3	n/k	
404	Fill	F/O 403. Pitched limestone brash fragments.		0.3	n/k	
405	Cut	Land drain		0.3	n/k	
406	Fill	F/O 405. Pitched limestone brash fragments.		0.3	n/k	
407	Cut	Land drain		0.3	n/k	
408	Fill	F/O 407. Pitched limestone brash fragments.		0.3	n/k	

**Trench 5**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Deposit	Turf and topsoil: dark grey-brown clay-silt			0.25	
501	Deposit	Subsoil: brown silt-clay			0.14	
502	Deposit	Natural substrate: limestone brash and yellow clay				
503	Cut	Land drain		0.3	n/k	
504	Fill	F/O 503. Pitched limestone brash fragments.		0.3	n/k	

**Trench 6**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Deposit	Turf and topsoil: dark grey-brown clay-silt			0.24	
601	Deposit	Subsoil: brown silt-clay			0.2	
602	Deposit	Natural substrate: limestone brash and yellow clay				
603	Cut	Land drain		0.3	n/k	
604	Fill	F/O 603. Pitched limestone brash fragments.		0.3	n/k	
605	Cut	Land drain		0.3	n/k	
606	Fill	F/O 605. Pitched limestone brash fragments.		0.3	n/k	

**Trench 7**

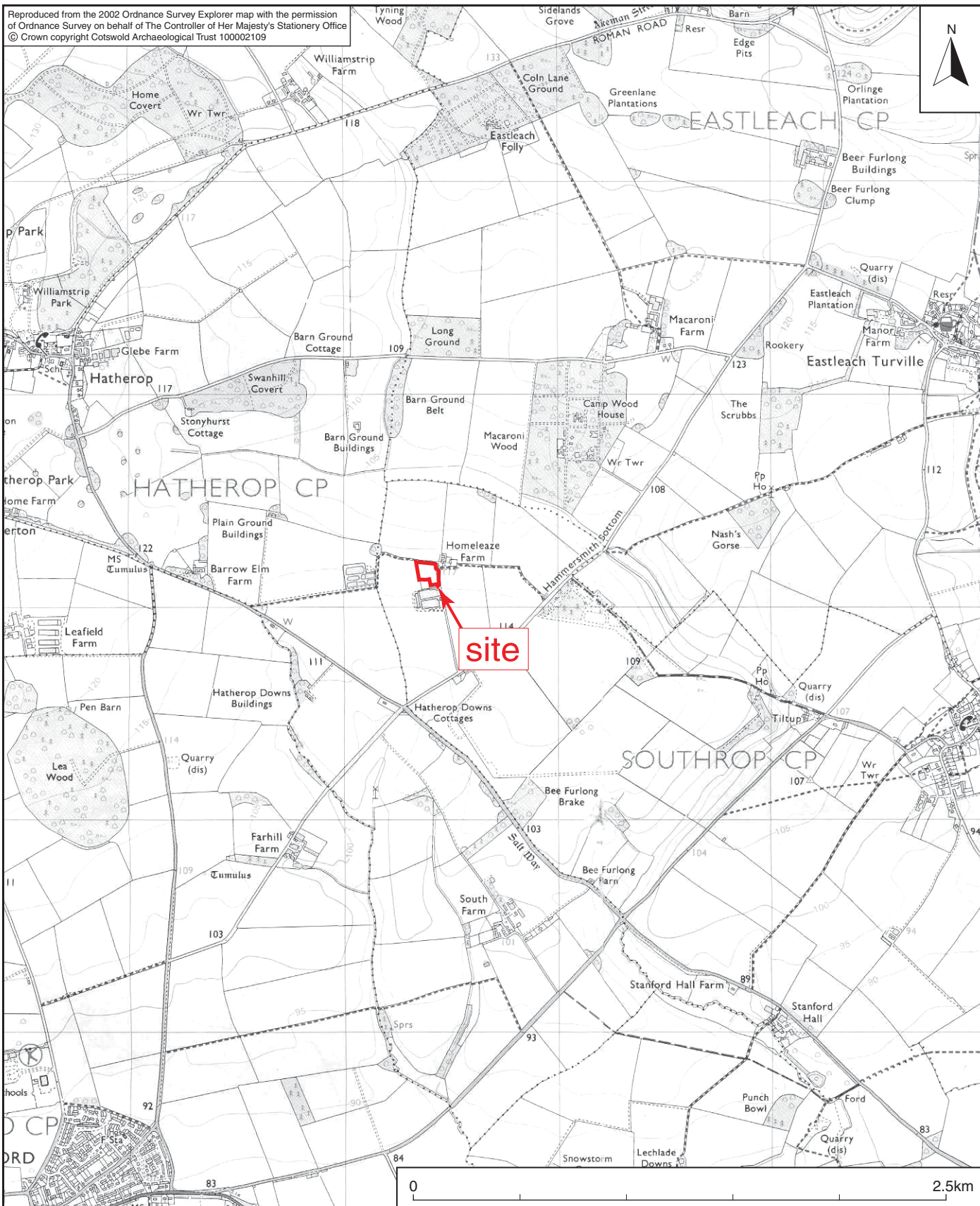
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Deposit	Turf and topsoil: dark grey-brown clay-silt			0.24	
701	Deposit	Subsoil: brown silt-clay			0.2	
702	Deposit	Natural substrate: limestone brash and yellow clay				
703	Cut	Land drain		0.3	n/k	
704	Fill	F/O 703. Pitched limestone brash fragments.		0.3	n/k	

**Trench 8**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Deposit	Turf and topsoil: dark grey-brown clay-silt			0.29	
801	Deposit	Subsoil: brown silt-clay			0.23	
802	Deposit	Natural substrate: limestone brash and yellow clay				

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Homeleaze Farm, Southrop, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2009 on land at Homeleaze Farm, Southrop, Gloucestershire. Eight trenches were excavated.</p> <p>An undated ditch was identified, This feature corresponded with the orientation and plotted location of a cropmark identified from aerial photographs.</p>	
Project dates	20-21 July 2009	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Homeleaze Farm, Southrop, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.89ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 174 042	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Alistair Barber	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Corinium Museum	none
Paper	Corinium Museum	Pro-forma registers, Context Sheets, Trench Record Sheets, black and white negatives, colour transparencies
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos, surveying data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Homeleaze Farm, Southrop, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA Typescript Report <b>09125</b>		



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Homeleaze Farm, Southrop  
Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

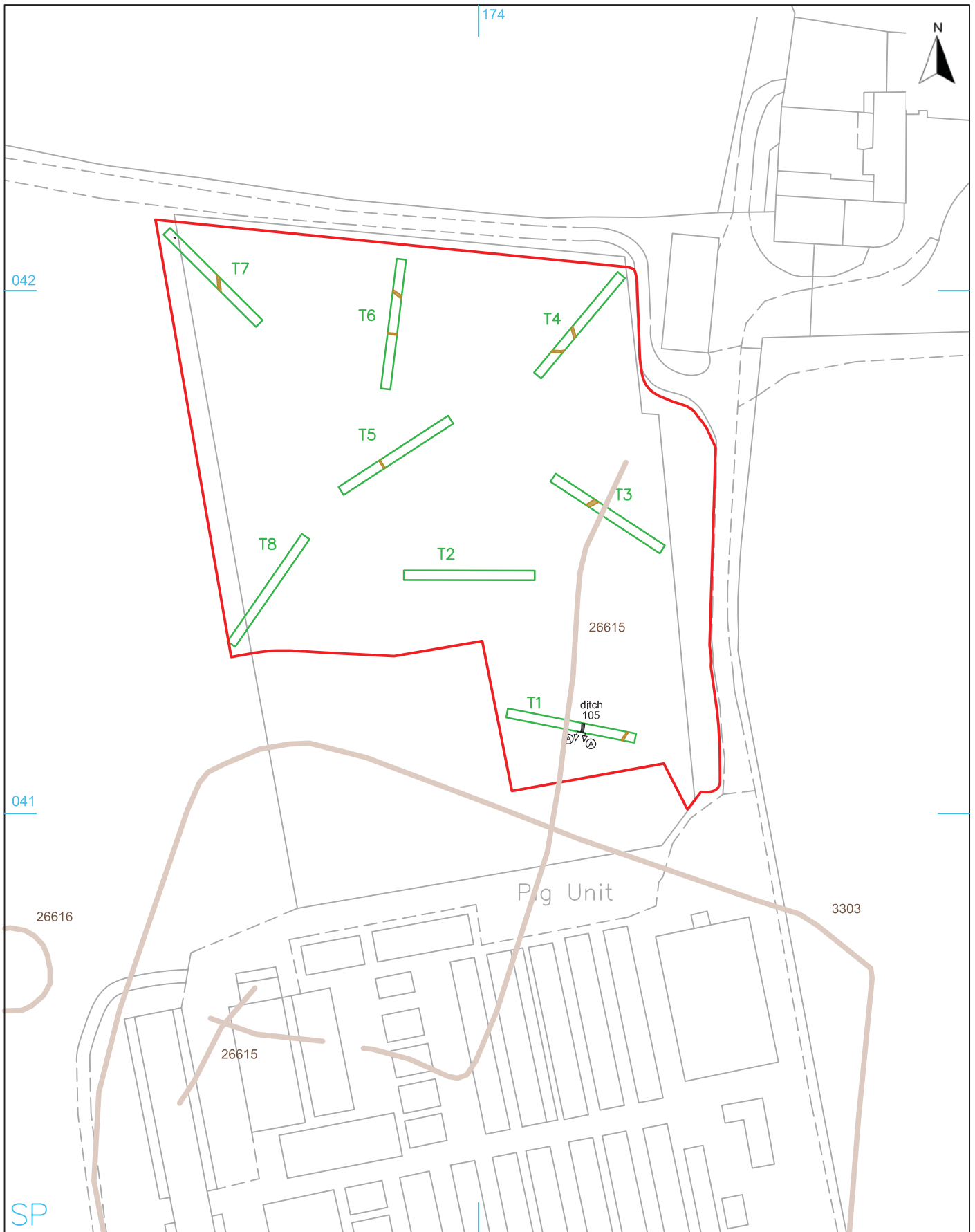
1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2909

FIGURE NO.

**1**



site

trench showing archaeological feature

land drain

cropmarks and SMR reference

0 50m



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Homeleaze Farm, Southrop  
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan, showing  
archaeological features**

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

1:1000@A4

PROJECT NO.

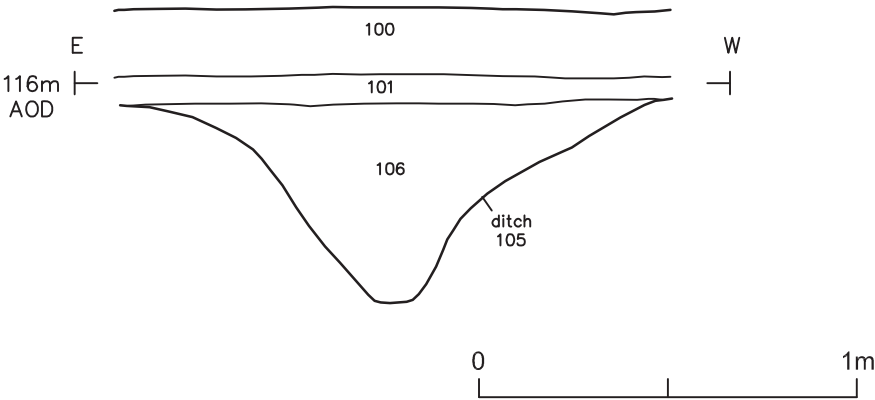
2909

FIGURE NO.

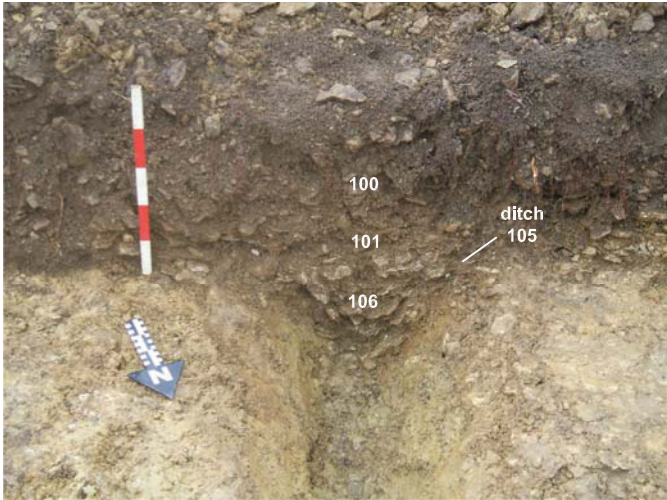
**2**



Trench 1; section AA



Section AA, looking south-west



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE  
Homeleaze Farm, Southrop  
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 1; section AA and  
photograph**

DRAWN BY  
LG

SCALE  
1:20@A4

PROJECT NO.  
2909

FIGURE NO.  
**3**