



Area 3, Cold Harbour Lane Warminster

Archaeological Watching Brief



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3			



Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project and planning background.....	1
1.2 Scope of the report	1
1.3 Location, topography and geology	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
2.1 Introduction.....	2
2.2 Previous investigations related to the development	2
2.3 Archaeological and historical context	3
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
3.1 Aims and objectives.....	4
3.2 Site-specific aims and objectives	4
3.3 Environmental.....	4
3.4 General Research.....	5
4 METHODS.....	5
4.1 Introduction.....	5
4.2 Fieldwork methods.....	5
4.3 Finds and environmental strategies	6
4.4 Monitoring.....	6
5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE	6
5.1 Introduction.....	6
5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits	6
5.3 Watching brief results	7
7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	7
7.1 Introduction.....	7
8 CONCLUSIONS	8
8.1 Summary	8
9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION.....	8
9.1 Museum.....	8
9.2 Preparation of the archive	8
9.3 Selection strategy	8
9.4 Security copy	9
9.5 OASIS	9
10 COPYRIGHT	9
10.1 Archive and report copyright	9
10.2 Third party data copyright	10
REFERENCES	11
APPENDICES	13
Appendix 1 Context Index.....	13
Appendix 2 OASIS summary	14



List of Figures

- Cover** Area 3 after topsoil strip
Figure 1 Site location plan and monitored area
Figure 2 Detailed plan of monitored area
Figure 3 Working shot – subsoil stripping within Area 3 viewed from the north-west
Figure 4 Working shot – subsoil stripping within Area 3 viewed from the north
Figure 5 South facing representative section of Area 3 (1 x 1 m)

List of Tables

- Table 1** All finds by context)



Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by GHC Archaeology and Heritage Ltd, on behalf of Persimmon Homes (Wessex) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of an attenuation pond (Area 3), at Cold Harbour Lane, Warminster, Wiltshire. The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Wiltshire County Council, and consisted of the monitoring of a machine excavation of an area covering 5, 442 m². No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the works.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank GHC Archaeology and Heritage Ltd, on behalf of Persimmon Homes (Wessex) Ltd, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Paul Gajos. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Neil Adam Assistant County Archaeologist of Wiltshire County Archaeological Services, who monitored the project for Wiltshire County Council, and to Flynn Construction for their cooperation and help on site.



Area 3, Cold Harbour Lane, Warminster WB

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by GHC Archaeology and Heritage Ltd, on behalf of Persimmon Homes (Wessex) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of an attenuation pond, designated Area 3. During the course of the fieldwork, the original pond area was reduced in size, the monitored works covering an area of approximately 5,442 m². This is approximately half of the original pond layout, which was due to cover an area of approximately 10, 220 m². The works were centred on NGR 386367 145641, south of Cold Harbour Lane, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA 12 8PA (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Wiltshire County Council (WCC) (15/01800/OUT), as part of a programme of archaeological works, which had included a desk-based assessment (DBA) (CgMs 2013), field walking (Wessex Archaeology (WA) 2012), geophysical surveys (ArchaeoPhysica 2013 and AOC 2015), and two phases of archaeological trenching (Cotswold Archaeology (CA) 2018 and 2020a).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (CA 2020b). The Assistant County Archaeologist of Wiltshire County Archaeological Services (WCAS) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken between the 13th to 18th October 2022.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The watching brief area (Area 3) was located on the proposed site of an attenuation pond within an agricultural field at the western edge of the wider development area. The site lay, immediately to the south of Cold Harbour Lane and was originally going to cover an area of approximately 10, 220 m².
- 1.3.2 Existing ground levels were recorded as being 127 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation. A small area of Shaftesbury Sandstone Member is present on the south-west corner of the wider development there are no superficial deposits recorded on the Site (British Geological Survey 2022).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A DBA was previously prepared in support of the planning application of development of the wider Site (CgMs 2013). Subsequent archaeological works including geophysical surveys, field walking, and evaluations were also conducted (AOC 2015, ArchaeoPhysica 2013, CA 2018 and CA 2020a, and WA 2012). The results of these works are given below.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the development

Geophysical Surveys [2013 and 2015]

2.2.1 In 2013 and 2015 ArchaeoPhysica and AOC Archaeology Group undertook geophysical surveys across the wider development site. The two surveys detected anomalies representing features previously recorded on historic mapping, including field boundaries, and evidence of quarrying. The results also identified a couple of discrete linear anomalies that are composed of a weak increase in magnetic readings and poor patterning. Subsequently detailed interpretation was very tentative, and it was unclear as to whether these features related to archaeological activity or were geological in origin. Modern features were also identified that related to land drains, ploughing and buried utilities.

Archaeological Evaluation [2018]

2.2.2 A subsequent archaeological evaluation of the wider development site, in 2018, comprised 186 50m long trenches of which 97 produced archaeological features. Identified archaeological features were in the form of pits, post-holes, gullies and ditches, and ranged in date from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval period (CA 2018).

2.2.3 Dispersed prehistoric activity had been identified across the wider site. Features within the north-east and south-west areas produced Mesolithic/Early Neolithic worked flint, indicating at least transitory activity on the Site at this time. A concentration of pits, ditches and post-holes, located close to Area 3, were indicative of slightly more substantial prehistoric agricultural activity.

2.2.4 Limited Romano-British activity was recorded in trenches in the south-western corner of the wider Site. In the same area a number of medieval or later ditches were recorded and are probably agricultural field systems associated with the village of Bugley.

2.2.5 Within and immediately adjacent to the watching brief area, seven trenches contained archaeological features. Trenches 99, 102, 103, 105 and 184 (**Figure 2**) contained a series of linear field boundaries on a broad north-south and east-west orientation. The features were largely between 0.31m to 1m in width and were relatively shallow, often c. 0.20-0.30m in depth. Although undated, some elements of the boundaries could be matched with field boundaries shown on 19th century historic mapping.

2.2.6 Within the interior of the watching brief area, trenches 185 and 106 identified two archaeologically significant pits, between 1.0-1.6m in diameter and up to 0.70m in depth (**Figure 2**). The pit within Trench 106 (10603) contained evidence of Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic worked flint and charcoal fragments. Similar material was found in pit 18503 within trench 185, although this material could not be firmly dated.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (1,000,000 BC – AD 43)

- 2.3.1 The earliest object found within the study area was a Palaeolithic hand axe, located 200 m from the south-western point of the study site. Flint waste material was found in a pit thought to be Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age 200 m from the study site's north-eastern boundary
- 2.3.2 In the wider landscape the Iron Age hill fort of Clay Hill is located 800 m from the study site boundary. An Iron Age coin was also found 350 m to the west. Field walking in 2012 recovered one sherd of prehistoric pottery and 49 pieces of worked flint.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.3.3 Field walking unrelated to the archaeological works south of Cold Harbour Lane, within the centre of the development area, recovered 'very large quantities of pottery' some of which was Roman. Unfortunately, it was impossible to verify these results as the field was unsuitable for field walking in 2012.
- 2.3.4 The field walking associated with the development recovered only seven sherds of Roman pottery.

Early Medieval (AD 410 – 1066)

- 2.3.5 There are no records for the early medieval period from within the study area. Those sites recorded within the wider study area relate to Saxon churches and chapels in the vicinity of Warminster School to the south-east of the study site, and the origins of the town. The Saxon Royal Manor of Warminster is first mentioned in the 9th century and archaeological evidence has dated the origins of the town to at least the 11th century.

Medieval (AD 1066- 1500)

- 2.3.6 The marketplace of Warminster was laid out in the 13th century and a number of medieval buildings are located within the Warminster Conservation Area. Medieval pottery is recorded within the study area through amateur fieldwalking, and a decorated stirrup mount was found on the western boundary of the development area. Bugley, adjacent to the south-western boundary of the Site, is identified as a medieval settlement. Further west from the Site a medieval brooch and coin were discovered. To the east archaeological evidence from this period includes floor tiles and one piece of pottery.
- 2.3.7 Fieldwalking results from 2012 show a concentration of medieval pottery in the fields in the south-western area of the development area. This is likely to be the result of manuring utilising material derived from the Bugley settlement.

Post-medieval and modern (AD 1500 – present)

- 2.3.8 Of the post-medieval and modern records for the search area only pottery from field walking was located within the wider development. There was further post-medieval and modern material recovered from the most recent field walking undertaken within the Site. This recovered 657 sherds of pottery and a large amount of ceramic building material (CBM), concentrated at the northern extent of the development. This is almost certainly the product of manuring and also material imported into the Site.



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The aims and objectives of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (CA 2020b) and as defined in the ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered;
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains;
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains;
- record any evidence of past settlement or other land use;
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified; and
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy.

3.2 Site-specific aims and objectives

3.2.1 Following the results of the archaeological evaluation (CA 2018), the site-specific aims and objectives defined in the WSI (CA 2020b), were to;

- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features this revealed;
- establish whether the pits identified during the evaluation are isolated features or whether there are associated features nearby;
- establish the form, function and date of any features identified within Area 3; and
- make reference to Chapters 3 to 8 of the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF, Webster 2007), to put the remains within their local and regional context.

3.3 Environmental

3.3.1 The environmental specific aims and objectives were to;

- establish the range of crops used and local crop processing activities;
- establish the natural of the local landscape and woodland resource;
- assist in determining the nature of the settlement and any specific activities taking place on the Site;
- establish whether the environmental remains show changes over time and whether these assemblages are comparable with other assemblages of the same date; and
- add information to the wider picture for the area and address regional research aims (SWARF, Webster 2007), where possible.



3.4 General Research

3.4.1 General Research aims identified from SWARF that maybe relevant to the Site given its location, included;

- Research Aim 10: Address lack of understanding of key transitional processes;
- Research Aim 57a: Widen understanding of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age mortuary practice;
- Research Aim 14: Widen understanding of Later Bronze Age and Iron Age material culture;
- Research Aim 21a: Development of field systems and intensification of agriculture in the Bronze Age and Iron Age;
- Research Aim 29: Improve understanding of non-villa Romano-British settlement; and
- Research Aim 21b: Medieval and post-Medieval agriculture; identify any changes of landscape transition.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2020b) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the boundary of Area 3 down to the archaeological horizon or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. If identified, a sample of archaeological features and deposits would have been hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.

4.2.2 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, and a representative sample of artefacts were retained from the topsoil and subsoil if they were of a modern date (19th century or later).

Recording

4.2.3 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.

4.2.4 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.



4.2.5 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (CA 2020b). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 1: Description).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The Assistant County Archaeologist for WCAS monitored the watching brief on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Assistant County Archaeologist for WCAS.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following summary outlines the results of the archaeological watching brief, which was carried out between the 13th and 18th of October 2022 and comprised of the monitoring of the reduction of an area measuring 5, 442 m² down to the natural geology (**Figure 1**). Areas clear of archaeological features or deposits were used as storage areas for spoil generated.

5.1.2 Full descriptions of the contexts encountered during the works can be found in **Appendix 1**.

5.1.3 After the initial monitoring period and while awaiting continuation of the monitoring of the remaining stripping of the area, a decision was taken by the client to reduce the final extent of the pond area (**Figure 2**).

5.1.4 The area monitored formed a large element of the new proposed area (approximately 70% of the new pond area). Before stripping recommenced, discussions were held by the archaeological consultant with the Assistant County Archaeologist (WCAS), who advises the Local Planning Authority, and it was agreed, given the negative results from the initial monitoring and the large extent of the area already monitored, that no further archaeological monitoring would be required.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The underlying geology of the monitored area was comprised of West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (**Figures 2 and 3**). The natural geology was overlain by a mid-grey silty clay to clay subsoil which measured around 0.16 m thick. This, in turn, was overlaid by a dark grey silty clay loam topsoil, measuring 0.18 m thick (**Figure 4**). Both topsoil and subsoil were observed across the entire footprint of Area 3.



5.3 Watching brief results

- 5.3.1 No archaeological features were identified during the monitoring, either relating to the two small pits observed during the previous evaluation or new features which may have been associated.
- 5.3.2 Finds were recovered during the stripping of the pond area and through investigation of the spoil heaps. No early prehistoric material was recovered, although a range of post-medieval and modern artefacts were encountered within the subsoil, including pottery, glass, clay pipe and CBM, and a representative selection was retained. Two sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered from the subsoil.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 Finds were recovered from two layers: topsoil (102) and subsoil (102); these are listed in **Table 1**. Datable finds range from medieval to post-medieval/modern.
- 6.1.2 Identifiable medieval finds comprise two sherds of coarseware pottery, one from topsoil and one from subsoil. Both fall within the known range of medieval ware types found in Warminster and the surrounding area (Smith 1997, 21, fabric D), with a putative source at nearby Crockerton (named in documentary sources from the 13th century onwards; Le Patourel 1968, 105). This ware type has a currency through the medieval period in Warminster.
- 6.1.3 The six fragments of flat (peg) roof tile found in the subsoil are broadly dated as medieval/post-medieval; such tiles are difficult to date more closely.
- 6.1.4 Other datable finds (remaining 24 sherds of pottery, clay pipe stems, vessel glass) are post-medieval/modern. The pottery wares indicate a date range from 17th century onwards.
- 6.1.5 It is not recommended that this material is retained.

Table 1 All finds by context

Context	Material	Count	Wt. (g)	Description
101	POTTERY	1	14	medieval coarseware
102	CBM	6	157	medieval/post-medieval roof tile
102	CLAY PIPE	12	31	plain stems
102	FIRED CLAY	2	28	undiagnostic; structural?
102	GLASS	4	38	1 post-med green wine bottle (oxidised); 3 modern jar/bottle
102	IRON	7	57	nails
102	POTTERY	25	343	1 med (coarseware); 24 post-med/mod (9 Verwood; 4 redware; 1 Staffs-type yellow slipware; 1 Westerwald; 1 English stoneware, base cyl jar; 1 yellow ware colander base; 7 refined whiteware, transfer-printed)

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 No archaeological deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the works.



8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The result of the archaeological monitoring found no evidence for archaeological features, indicating a low potential across the wider area. Given that the soil sequence was intact, and there was no evidence of previous landscaping or truncation, any surviving archaeological features or deposits would have been present and visible.
- 8.1.2 The lack of discrete archaeological features, such as pits or postholes, indicate that the features identified during the archaeological evaluation were isolated features and were not part of a larger group.
- 8.1.3 The artefacts recovered from the subsoil are similar in range and quantity as those seen during the previous evaluation and field walking and support the previous conclusions that the presence of many of these are the result of manuring processes or material importation.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 Given the negative nature of the monitoring of the pond area, and in consultation by Wessex Archaeology with both Salisbury Museum and Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, it would be recommended that any deposition would be limited to the report uploaded to OASIS, following ClfA's recommendations. In addition, day-book records, site records and photo register will be scanned and stored on Wessex Archaeology's backup servers, as a permanent record

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Digital archive

- 9.2.1 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited on the internal Wessex Archaeology servers to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

9.3 Selection strategy

- 9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.
- 9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1995) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.



9.3.3 Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

9.3.5 In view of the small quantity of finds recovered, their nature and date range (commonly occurring and well documented types mostly of relatively recent date) and provenance (topsoil and subsoil, ie redeposited), retention for long-term curation is not recommended.

Documentary records

9.3.6 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (written scheme of investigation, client report). All will be scanned and included with the digital data.

Digital data

9.3.7 Given the very limited results of the fieldwork, it is considered that the site conforms to the definition of a 'sterile project' (i.e., one that produces nothing of evidential value), according to the *ClfA Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* (archaeological archives from sterile projects). It is therefore recommended that only selected digital data are deposited with ADS, an approach commensurate with the scale and significance of the project. Deposition will involve the uploading of the site report via OASIS only.

9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (**Appendix 2**). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Assistant County Archaeologist of WCAS on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.



10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Context Index

Context Number	Type	Category	Depth (BGL)
101 Dark grey silty clay loam	Layer	Topsoil	0 – 0.18 m
102 Mid grey silty clay with sparse chalk flecks	Layer	Subsoil	0.18 – 0.34 m
103 Off white with near complete sub-angular to sub-rounded chalk fragments (<0.06 m)	Layer	Natural	0.34 m+



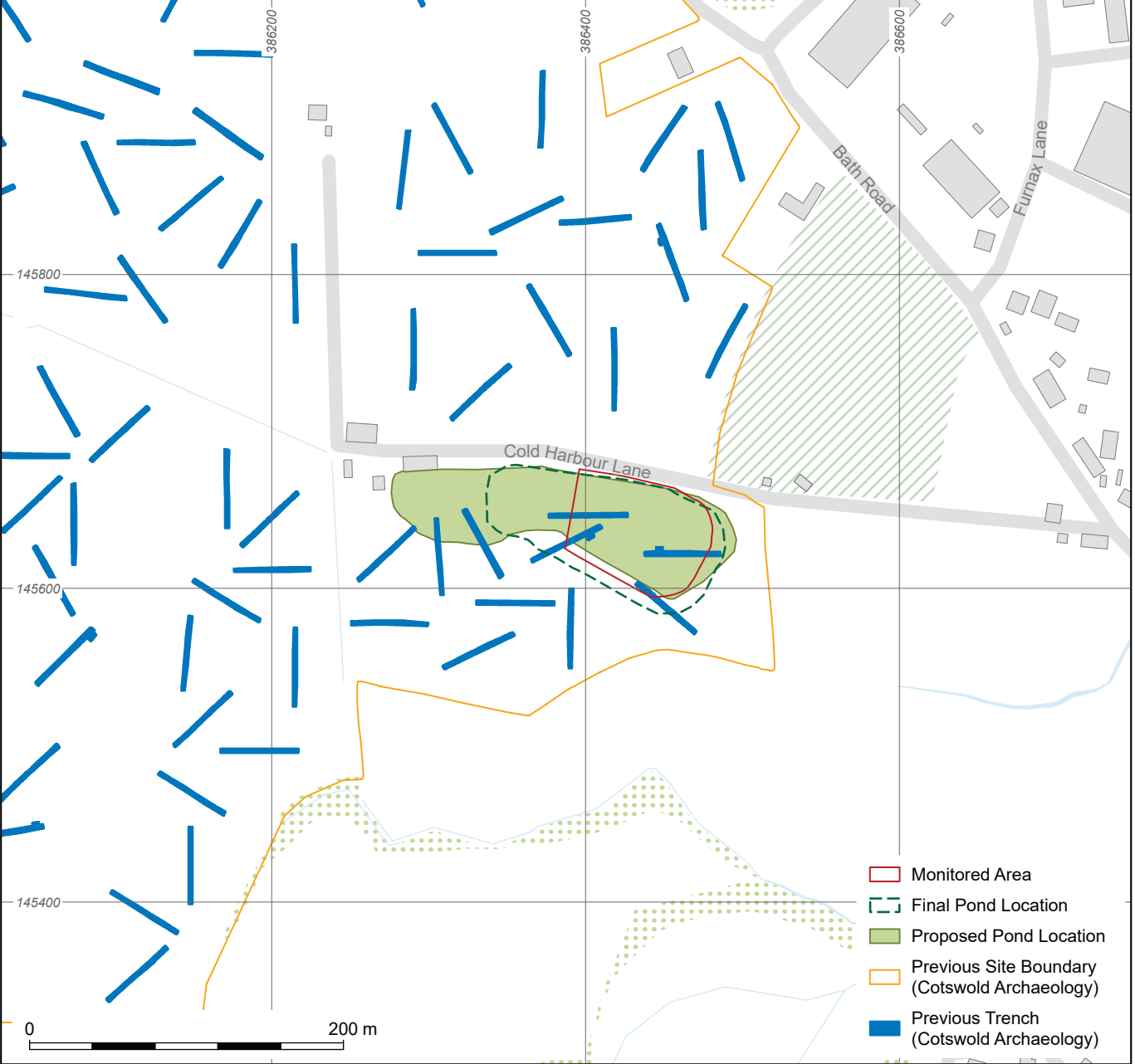
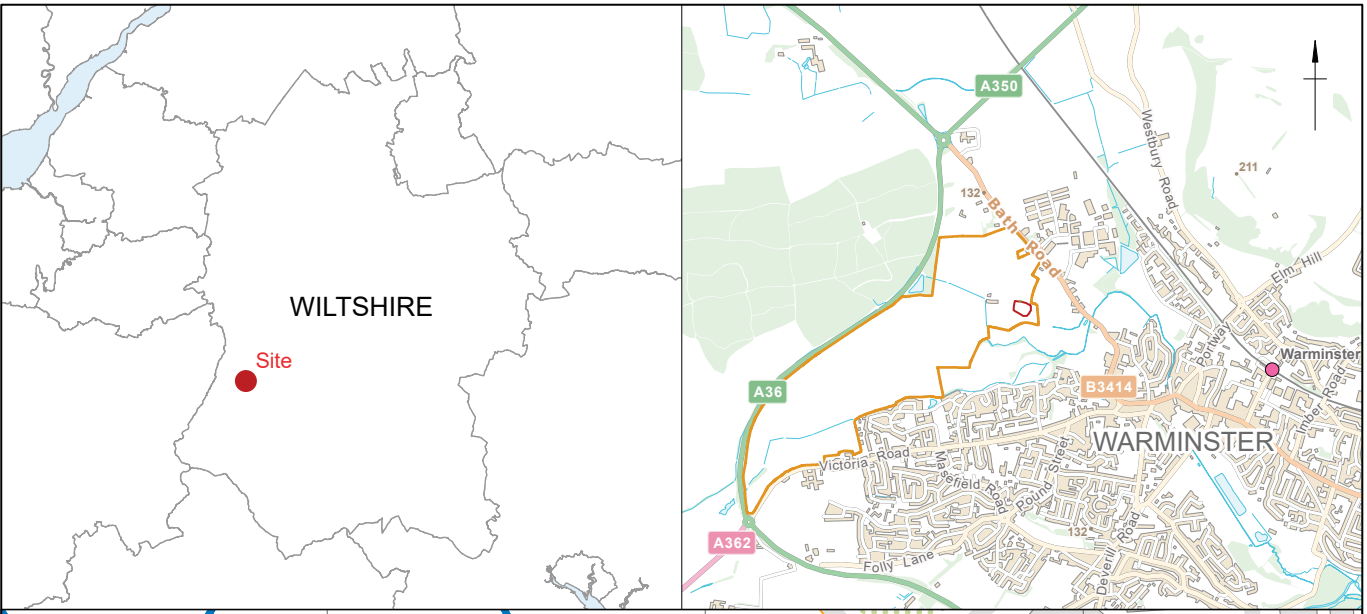
Appendix 2 OASIS summary



Summary for wessexar1-511100

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-511100
Project Name	Watching Brief at Area 3, Cold Harbour Lane, Warminster
Site name	Area 3, Cold Harbour Lane, Warminster
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	271990
Planning Id	15/01800/OUT
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	13-Oct-2022 - 18-Oct-2022
Location	Area 3, Cold Harbour Lane, Warminster NGR : ST 86435 45631 LL : 51.209717, -2.19557 12 Fig : 386435,145631
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Wiltshire District : Wiltshire Parish : Warminster
Project Methodology	<p>The watching brief area (Area 3) was located within an agricultural field at the western edge of the wider development area, just south of Cold Harbour Lane, and covered an area of approximately 10, 220 m².</p> <p>The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the boundary of Area 3 down to the archaeological horizon or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.</p> <p>Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, and a representative sample of artefacts were retained from the topsoil and subsoil if they were of a modern date (19th century or later).</p> <p>All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.</p> <p>A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.</p> <p>A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.</p>
Project Results	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by GHC Archaeology and Heritage Ltd, on behalf of Persimmon Homes (Wessex) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of an attenuation pond (Area 3), at Cold Harbour Lane, Warminster, Wiltshire. The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Wiltshire County Council, and consisted of the monitoring of a machine excavation of an area covering 5, 442 m². No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the works.</p> <p>The underlying geology of the monitored area comprised West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation. The natural geology was overlain by a mid-grey silty clay to clay subsoil which measured around 0.16 m thick. This, in turn, was overlaid by a dark grey silty clay loam topsoil, measuring 0.18 m thick. Both topsoil and subsoil were observed across the entire footprint of Area 3.</p> <p>No archaeological features were encountered, indicating that the discrete features seen in the evaluations isolated features and not part of a larger cluster.</p> <p>Identifiable medieval finds comprise two sherds of coarseware pottery, one from topsoil and one from subsoil. Both fall within the known range of medieval ware types found in Warminster and the surrounding area, with a putative source at nearby Crockerton (named in documentary sources from the 13th century onwards. This ware type has a currency through the medieval period in Warminster.</p> <p>The six fragments of flat (peg) roof tile found in the subsoil are broadly dated as medieval/post-medieval; such tiles are difficult to date more closely.</p> <p>Other datable finds (remaining 24 sherds of pottery, clay pipe stems, vessel glass) are post-medieval/modern. The pottery wares indicate a date range from 17th century onwards.</p> <p>The lack of discrete archaeological features, such as pits or postholes, indicate that the features identified during the archaeological evaluation were isolated features and were not part of a larger group. The artefacts recovered from the subsoil are similar in range and quantity as those seen during the previous evaluation and field walking and support the previous conclusions that the presence of many of these are the result of manuring processes or material importation.</p>

Keywords	Clay Pipe (Smoking) - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ceramic - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ceramic - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Nail - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Roof Tile - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	M, Kendall
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Wiltshire Museum



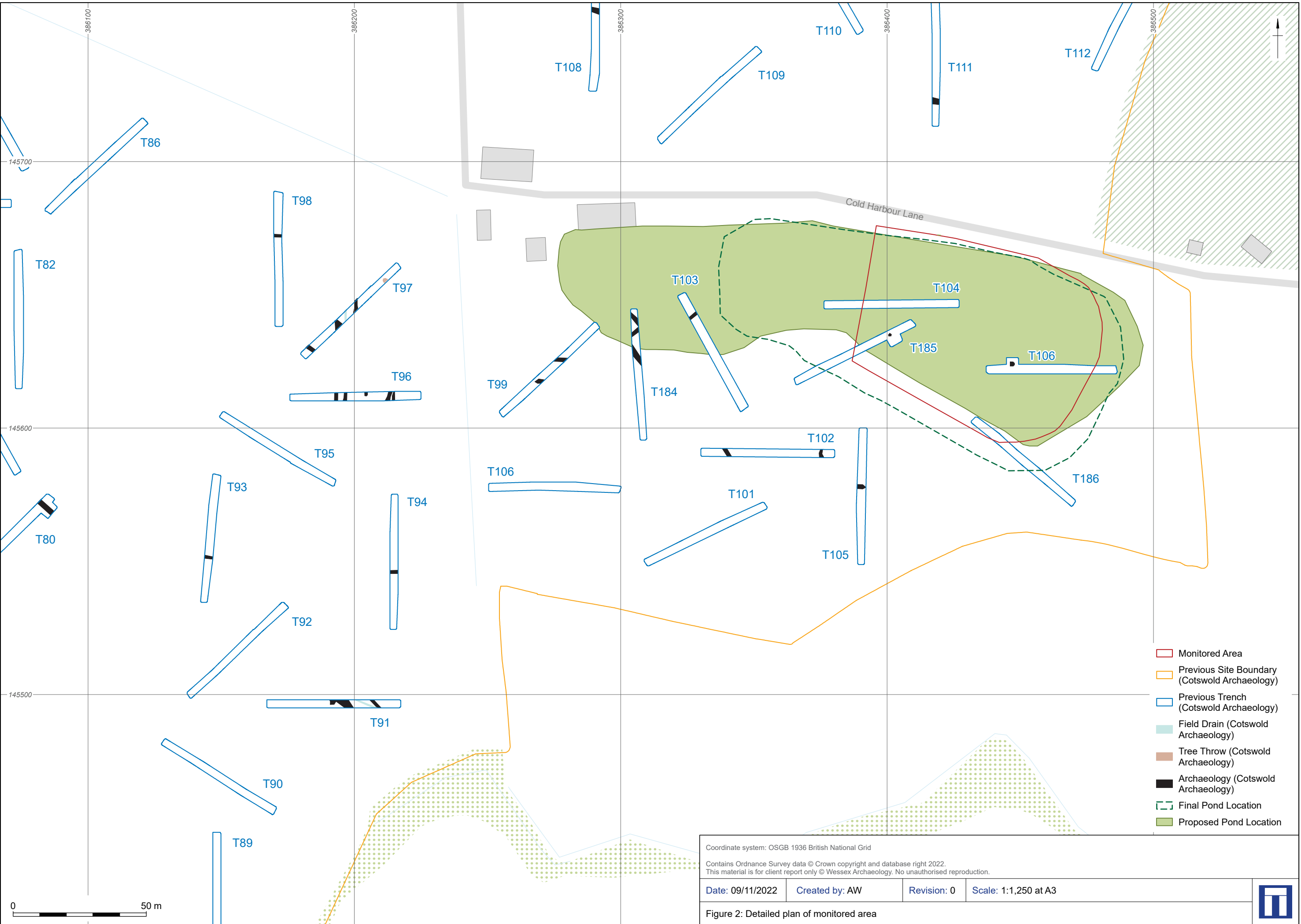
Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid

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Figure 1: Site location plan and monitored area





- ▭ Monitored Area
- ▭ Previous Site Boundary (Cotswold Archaeology)
- ▭ Previous Trench (Cotswold Archaeology)
- ▭ Field Drain (Cotswold Archaeology)
- ▭ Tree Throw (Cotswold Archaeology)
- ▭ Archaeology (Cotswold Archaeology)
- ▭ Final Pond Location
- ▭ Proposed Pond Location

Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid
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Figure 2: Detailed plan of monitored area





Figure 3: Working shot – subsoil stripping within Area 3 viewed from the north-west



Figure 4: Working shot – subsoil stripping within Area 3 viewed from the north



Figure 5: South facing representative section of Area 3 (1 x 1 m)



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