

**CRANMORE FARM,  
SHIPTON MOYNE,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

**NGR: 389007 188608**

**CONTROLLED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND  
RECORDING**

April 2024

Report No. 1632

A. Hood BSc MCIfA



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**Quality Assurance**

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## **CONTENTS**

Summary

Glossary of Archaeological Terms and Abbreviations

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 3 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS
- 6 CONCLUSION
- 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **FIGURE LIST**

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Site Plan
- Figure 3: Representative Photographs

## **SUMMARY**

On 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of controlled archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Cranmore Farm, Shipton Moyne, Gloucestershire (NGR: 389007 188608). The project was commissioned by Mel McQueen on behalf of the landowners.

The archaeological works comprised the partial monitoring and recording of the mechanical excavation of a pond.

The groundwork excavations revealed part of a network of stone culvert drains. Although poorly dated, it is most likely that they represented Post-medieval agricultural features, which were related to the nearby farm.

The archaeological monitoring did not identify any features that could be related to a probable funerary ring ditch (HER 4597), the eastern edge of which was located approximately 7.5m to the west of the excavated pond. No significant archaeological features or finds were present within the monitored area.

## **GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

### **Archaeology**

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

### **CBM**

Ceramic Building Material.

### **Medieval**

The period between AD 1066 and AD 1500.

### **Natural**

In archaeological terms, this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

### **NGR**

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

### **OD**

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

### **OS**

Ordnance Survey.

### **Post-medieval**

The period between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

### **Prehistoric**

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43, which can be sub-divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,000 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,000 BC to c. 2,500 BC; *Copper Age (Chalcolithic)* – c. 2,500 BC to 2,200 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,200 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

### **Roman**

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

### **Saxon**

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of a programme of controlled archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Cranmore Farm, Shipton Moyne, Gloucestershire (NGR: 389007 188608). The project was commissioned by Mel McQueen on behalf of the landowners.
- 1.2 The archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted in accordance with an approved Project Design – PD (2024) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa) *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023).
- 1.3 The Cifa code of conduct was adhered to throughout.

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Planning Permission (Reference **23/01666/FUL**) was granted for the construction of a pond at Cranmore Farm. A condition for a programme of controlled archaeological monitoring and recording was attached to the permission.
- 2.2 The site is located within an agricultural field, immediately south of Cranmore Farm farmyard complex. The proposed pond subject to archaeological monitoring occupied an area of approximately 0.235ha. A proposed attenuation pond, which was located to the southeast, was not subject to archaeological monitoring. The land surface within and immediately around the site slopes very gently downwards from northwest (100m aOD) to southeast (99m aOD). The underlying geology is recorded as *Forest Marble Formation* – mudstone (BGS Online Viewer). However, the archaeological observations during the pond excavation indicated that they were in fact limestone, which were probably related to a deposit of *Cornbrash Formation* recorded approximately 290m to the west. The River Avon, which is located approximately 1.5km to the south of the site, is the nearest significant water course; although, springs are recorded approximately 730m to the southeast.
- 2.3 A probable ring ditch (HER 4597) has been identified on aerial photographs within, or in very close proximity to, the west edge of the proposed pond (Figure 2). This feature, which has a diameter of approximately 30m, is likely to be the remains of a substantial Bronze Age round barrow, or similar funerary monument. A further smaller ring ditch (HER 53705) is located approximately 25m to the southwest. Further similar ring ditches have also been identified in the wider study area.
- 2.4 An Early Iron Age to Roman settlement has been identified (MWI5438) from aerial photographs approximately 900m to the southeast of the site.

## **Cranmore Farm, Shipton Moyne, Gloucestershire: Controlled Archaeological Monitoring and Recording**

- 2.5 A Scheduled Monument (List Entry 1013354) for a Romano-British settlement, earthwork enclosure, along with a section of the Fosse Way Roman road is recorded approximately 950m to the south of the site. At its closest point, the Fosse Way is approximately 800m to the east of the site.
- 2.6 The site and the surrounding environs are within an area of ridge and furrow, which has been recorded from aerial photographs (HER 53702).
- 2.7 The site therefore contained the potential for evidence of Bronze Age activity. This did not prejudice the works against the recovery of data relating to other periods.

### **3 AIMS**

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring and recording were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, as well as to ensure that significant archaeological remains were identified and appropriately mitigated.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
  - To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
  - To attempt to characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
  - Where possible to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
  - To produce a site archive for deposition with *Corinium* Museum and to provide information for accession to the Gloucestershire County Council HER.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 All groundworks that had the potential to impact upon archaeological deposits were undertaken whilst under the direction of an archaeologist.
- 4.2 Machine excavation was undertaken down to the underlying natural limestone, or the top of archaeological remains, whichever was encountered first. Plant comprised a tracked 360° excavator, which was equipped with a toothless grading bucket.
  - 4.2.1 In agreement with the archaeological representative of Gloucestershire Archaeology Service, the west part of the pond excavation, nearest to ring

ditch HER 4597, was subject to archaeological monitoring and recording. Due to a lack of significant archaeological remains within the monitored area, the eastern part of the pond excavation was not subject to archaeological monitoring. The extent of the monitored area is shown in Figure 2.

- 4.3 All archaeological excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the approved WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.
- 4.3.1 Three drains present within the monitored excavation area were subject to reduced/basic investigation and recording, in order to establish their location and general character.

## **5 RESULTS**

- 5.1 The monitored excavation area was reduced onto natural limestone, at an average depth of 0.28m below the Modern ground surface (Photograph 1). The natural was intermittently overlain by a mid-brown clay subsoil/interface horizon (102), average 0.08m thick. This was subsequently overlain by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (101), average 0.20m thick. There was a total of three drains present within the excavation area. These features were cut through the subsoil/interface layer (102) into the top of the limestone, and they were sealed by the topsoil (101).
- 5.2 **Drain 1** (Photograph 2) was 4m long, 0.60m wide and at least 0.48m in depth. It comprised an east – west aligned ditch with near vertical sides. The base of the feature was not exposed due to flooding. It contained a loose soil and limestone in-fill. It extended beyond the west limit of investigation, and it was conjoined with Drain 2 at the east.
- 5.3 **Drain 2** (Photograph 3) was 18.6m long, 0.70m wide and at least 0.48m in depth. It consisted of a north – south aligned ditch with near vertical sides. The base of the ditch contained a stone culvert, which consisted of two parallel stone kerbs with stone capping. Due to flooding, the base of the culvert was not observed. It was exposed for a length of 0.90m and it was 0.42m wide and at least 0.17m in depth. The internal culvert channel, which was water-filled at the time of the excavation, measured 0.10m wide by 0.12m in depth. The culvert was constructed of irregular, but partly shaped, beige limestone fragments. The capping stones were noticeably larger than the kerb stones and these measured up to 0.35m long, by 0.35m wide, by 0.05m thick. The stones were set within a sticky beige brown plastic clay matrix. The culvert was overlain by a loose soil and limestone in-fill. Drain 2 extended beyond the north limit of investigation and it was conjoined with Drain 1 at the west and Drain 3 at the south.
- 5.4 **Drain 3** was 22.5m long and 0.70m wide and it consisted of an east – west aligned ditch, which turned towards the southwest at the west edge of the excavation area. The ditch contained a loose soil and limestone in-fill. It

remained unexcavated. It extended beyond the west and east limits of investigation, and it was conjoined with Drain 2 at the north.

- 5.5 There were no significant archaeological features or finds within the monitored area.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The groundworks excavations revealed part of a network of stone culvert drains. Although poorly dated, it is most likely that they represented Post-medieval agricultural features, which were related to the nearby farm.
- 6.2 There were no features that could be related to ring ditch HER 4597, the eastern edge of which was located approximately 7.5m to the west of the excavated pond. No significant archaeological features or finds were present within the monitored area.
- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but it will be deposited with *Corinium* Museum, in due course. A digital report/archive will also be submitted to OASIS/ADS. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal.

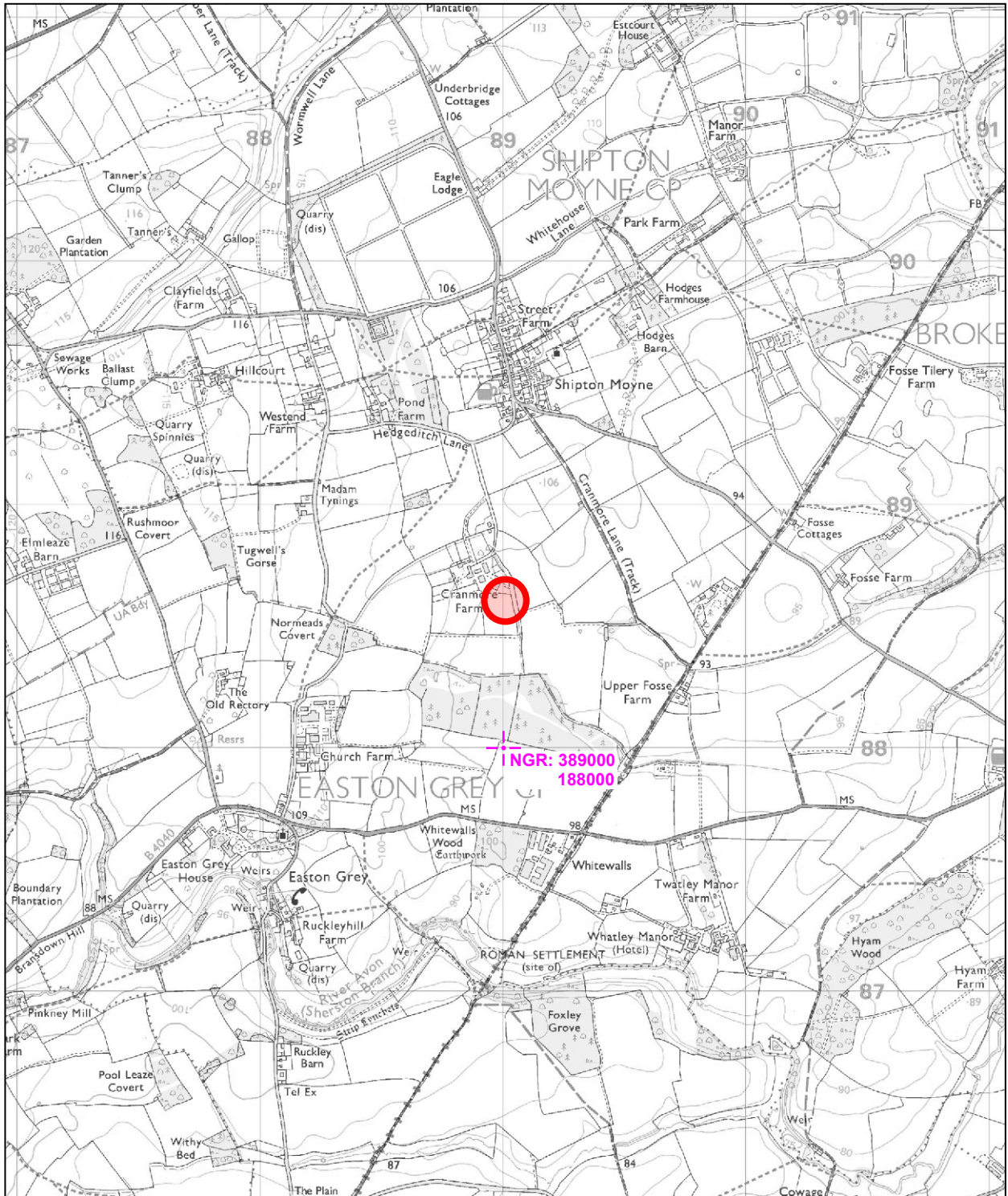
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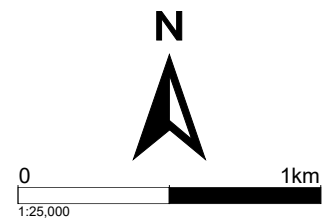
## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Rachel Foster of Gloucestershire Archaeology Service, along with Mel McQueen and the rest of the staff at Cranmore Farm for their help during the course of the project.

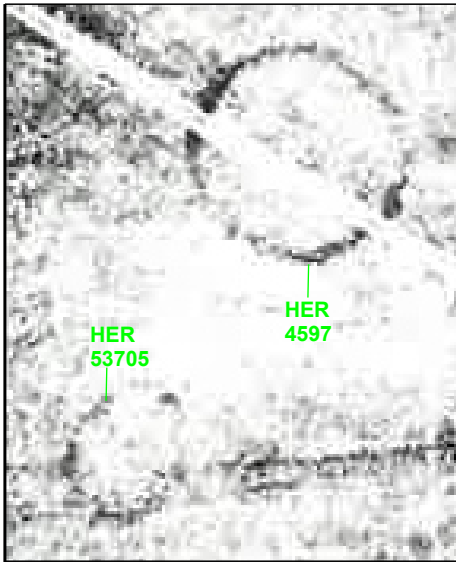


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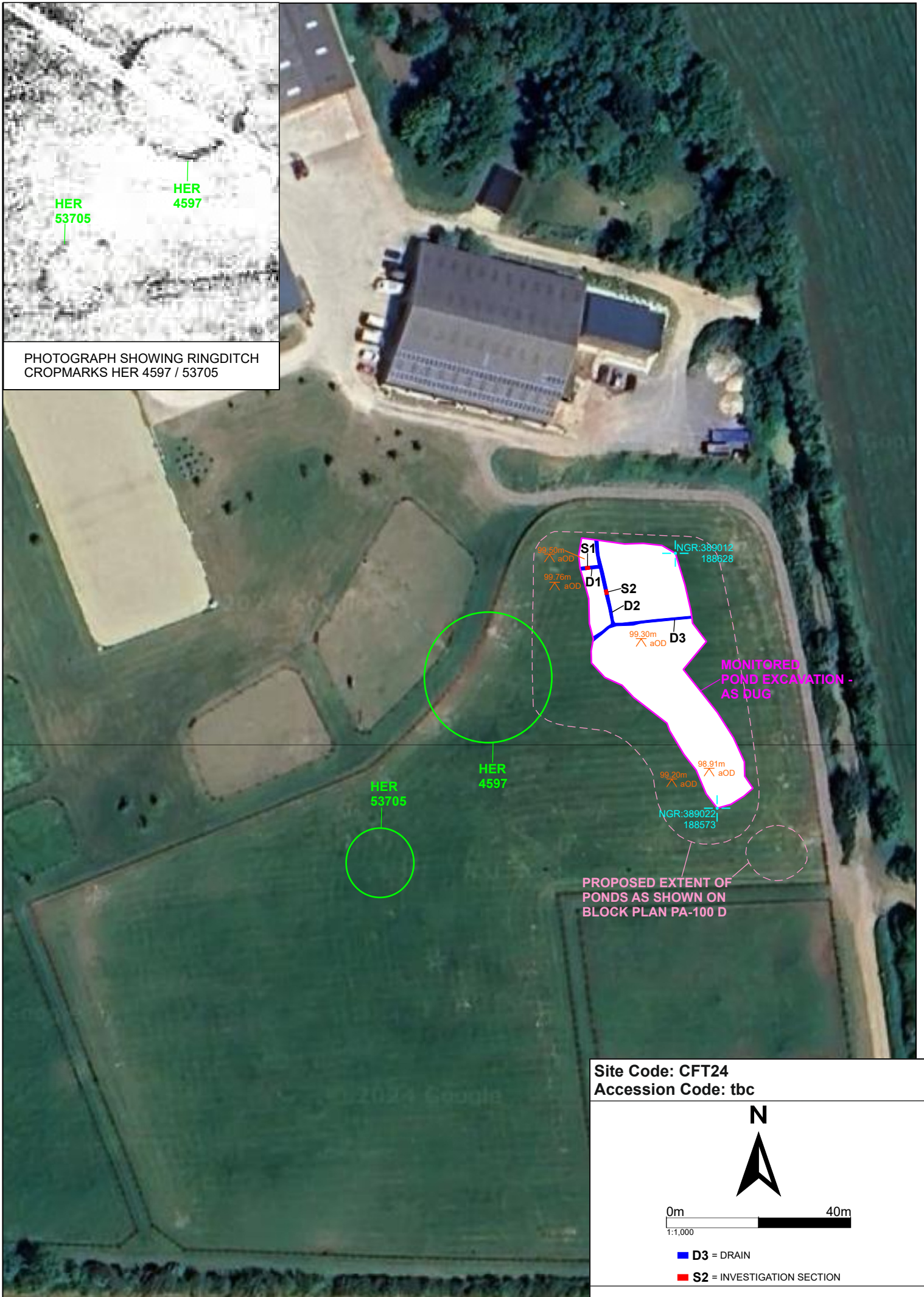
**Site Code: CFT24**  
**Accession Code: tbc**



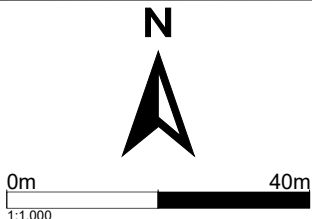
**FIGURE 1: Site Location**



PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING RINGDITCH CROPMARKS HER 4597 / 53705



Site Code: CFT24  
Accession Code: tbc



D3 = DRAIN  
S2 = INVESTIGATION SECTION

FIGURE 2: Site Plan



PHOTOGRAPH 1: POND EXCAVATION AT CESSATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, LOOKING SOUTH



PHOTOGRAPH 2: **DRAIN 1** (SECTION 1), LOOKING WEST. EXCAVATION ABANDONED DUE TO FLOODING



PHOTOGRAPH 3: **DRAIN 2** (SECTION 2), LOOKING NORTH

Site Code: CFT24  
Accession Code: tbc

**FIGURE 3: Representative  
Photographs**