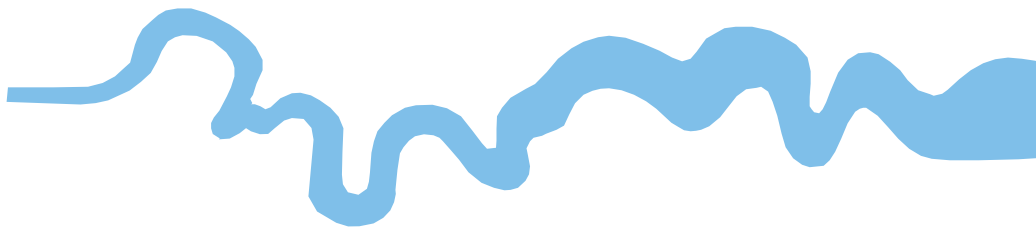


T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**Bank Farmhouse, Todenham,
Moreton-In-Marsh, Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Nicholas Dawson

Site Code: BFT18/150

(SP 2383 3584)

**Bank Farmhouse, Todenham,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr and Mrs Harrison

by Nicholas Dawson

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BFT 18/150

December 2018

Summary

Site name: Bank Farmhouse, Todenham, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire

Grid reference: SP 2384 3582

Site activity: Archaeological evaluation

Date and duration of project: 14th December 2018

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

Site supervisor: Nicholas Dawson

Site code: BFT 18/150

Area of site: 1.6ha (development area 595 sq m)

Summary of results: The evaluation was carried out successfully with the only feature of archaeological interest being an undated shallow linear ditch.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited at Corinium Museum in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 18.12.18
	Steve Preston ✓ 18.12.18

Bank Farmhouse, Todenham, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Nicholas Dawson

Report 18/150b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Bank Farmhouse, Todenham, Moreton-In-Marsh, Gloucestershire (SP 2384 3582) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mark Jarman of Planning for Tennis, 2 Marlborough Place, Charlbury, Oxfordshire, OX7 3SH on behalf of Mr and Mrs Harrison, Bank Farmhouse, Todenham, GL56 9PA.

A planning application (Appln no. 18/02121/FUL) has been submitted to Cotswold District Council for change of use of land from paddock and construction of a tennis court. An archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken (Baljkas 2018) concluded that the site had potential to contain archaeological remains and therefore it has been advised that an archaeological evaluation is undertaken prior to determining the application.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer of Gloucestershire County Council, the archaeological adviser to Cotswold District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Nicholas Dawson on 14th December 2018 and the site code is BFT 18/150. The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited at Corinium Museum, Cirencester in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the village of Todenham approximately 4.8km north-east of Moreton-in-Marsh. It comprises an irregular parcel of land covering an area of approximately 1.6ha (of which, an area of 595 sq m is proposed to be developed) and is centred on NGR SP 2384 3582 (Fig. 1). The site is bounded by the road from Todenham Road to the A3400 to the north-west, the Rectory to the north-east, undeveloped land to the east, a paddock to the south and south-west, and Cliff Cottage to the west. The site is occupied by Bank Farmhouse, and associated structures. The main house is located in the north-western section of the site with other buildings to the rear. The north-eastern section of the site is covered with mature trees and other vegetation. The southern section, where the proposed development is to take place, has the appearance of a redundant orchard. The site

lies on Charmouth Mudstone Formation in the north-west and Paxford Gravel Member to the south-east (BGS 2000). It lies at a height of approximately 115m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north rising to 120m aOD in the south.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Baljkas 2018). In summary, two earthworks thought to represent part of the shrunken medieval settlement of Todenham are recorded within the site. The site also lies in a broad area of generally high archaeological interest.

For example an extensive prehistoric site which yielded several hundred finds from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age, was identified to the west at Blockley (Douthwaite and Devine 1998a, 18) while at Moreton-in-Marsh, some 4km to the south-west, is a Scheduled Iron Age defensive settlement known as Batsford Camp (Douthwaite and Devine 1998b, 18). The Roman road known as the Fosse Way, from Cirencester ultimately to Lincoln passes approximately 2km to the west of Todenham. Excavations at Batsford Camp have produced Roman pottery which implies a prolonged period of occupation (Douthwaite and Devine 1998b, 18). A Roman small town is recorded at Dorn, some 4km to the south-west of Todenham (Douthwaite and Devine 1998c, 10). Saxon remains have also been found at Blockley (Douthwaite and Devine 1998a, 18) while archaeological investigations at Tinker's Close, Moreton-in-Marsh revealed evidence for a Saxon strip field system (Douthwaite and Devine 1998b, 18).

The site is also adjacent to two Grade II listed post-medieval buildings and partly within the Todenham Conservation Area.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if cropmarks/earthworks recorded in the county Historic Environment Record are of archaeological origin.

A single trench was to be opened, 35m long and 1.6m wide. Topsoil and other overburden were to be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present or where the archaeological potential is uncertain, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the features exposed would be excavated or sampled to satisfy the aims outlined above.

Results

The single trench was opened successfully however due to the presence of a fence across the intended location it was split in two with the southern 14.9m becoming Trench 1A and the northern 20m becoming Trench 1B. Both sections of trench were 1.6m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1A (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1A was aligned SW - NE and was 14.9m long and 0.8m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.53m subsoil overlying natural geology. A modern large gravel layer containing plastic sheeting, modern 'china' pottery and an aluminium drinks can stretches 3.65m from the southern end of the trench beneath 0.09m of topsoil. Beneath this modern layer at 0.3m deep and 0.9m into the trench at right angles to it a trench for modern utilities was identified (Pl. 3). As a result 2.6m of the trench was not taken fully down to the natural geology. Two tree root bowls were also identified with one at 6.2m being sectioned to confirm their nature (1).

Trench 1B (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 1B was aligned SW - NE and was 20m long and 0.87m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil and 0.49m subsoil overlying natural geology. A shallow ditch (3) was recorded at the north-east end of the trench, which was 1.55m wide and 0.36m deep and filled with a mid grey brown silt clay (55) with some signs of burnt materials (Pl. 4). Its orientation was north-west to south-east. No finds were recovered. At 0.4m from the trench's southern end a ceramic land drain was observed, also aligned north-west to south-east.

Conclusion

The single trench was open successfully with only slight alteration resulting in the trench being split into two. Despite potential archaeology being highlighted by the desk-based assessment in the form of a medieval bank,

along the southern field boundary, only one undated linear feature was found, well away from the supposed earthwork. In place of the potential medieval bank was found a modern gravel layer with a utilities trench underneath. No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

References

- Baljkas, G, 2018, 'Bank Farmhouse, Todenham, Moreton-In_marsh, Gloucestershire: An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 18/150, Reading
- BGS, 2000, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000 Sheet 217, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Douthwaite, A and Devine, V, 1998b, *Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey, Cotswold District Archaeological Assessments - Moreton-in-Marsh*, Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service Environment Department, Gloucester
- Douthwaite, A and Devine, V, 1998c, *Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey, Cotswold District Archaeological Assessments - Dorn*, Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service Environment Department, Gloucester
- NPPF, 2018, *National Planning Policy Framework (Revised)*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Govt, London

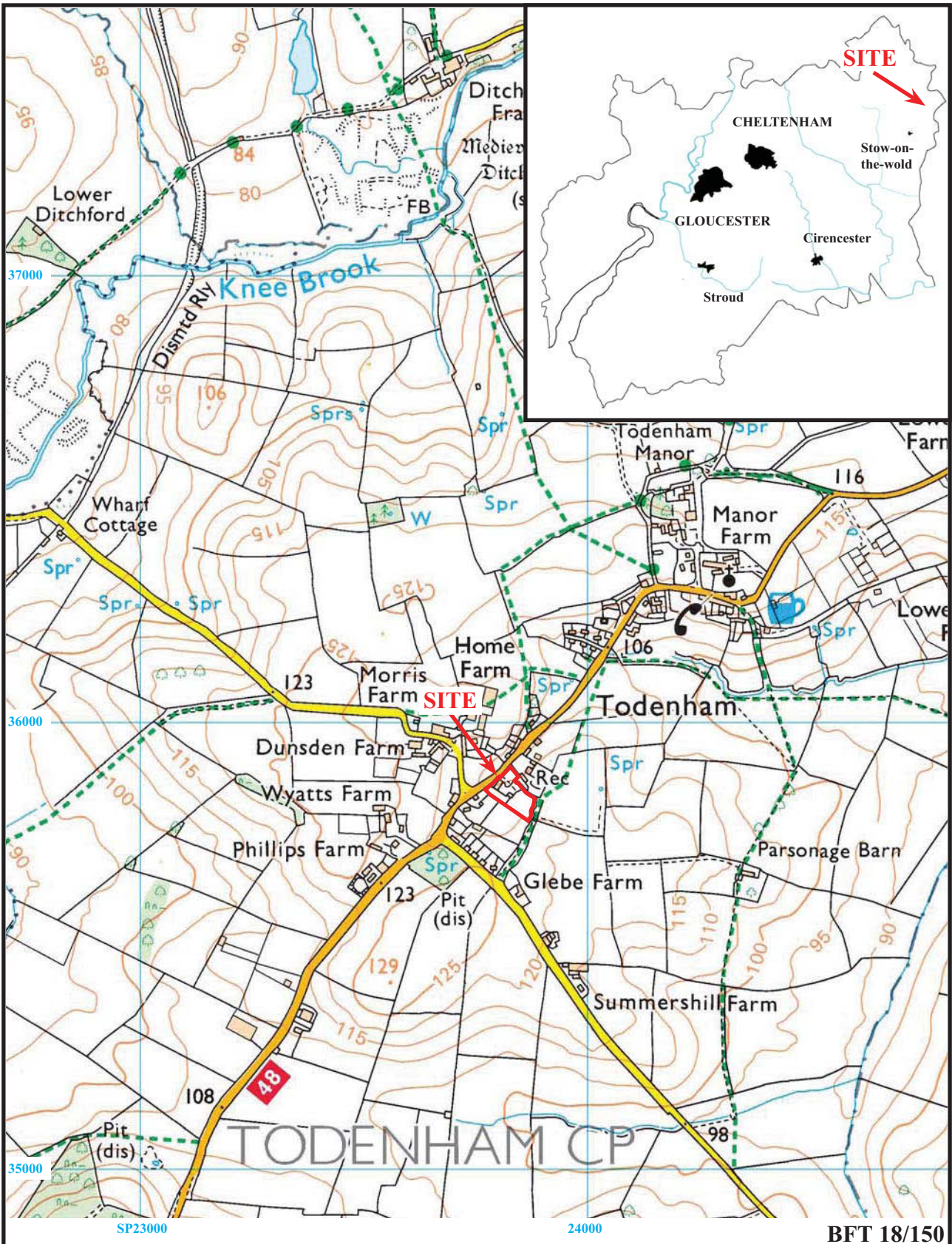
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at SW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1A	14.9	1.8	0.8	0–0.27m topsoil, 0.27-0.67m subsoil overlaying a reddish brown clay with small stone inclusions natural geology. Features include 0.2m deep modern gravel layer (52), modern utilities trench (2) and root bowls (1). [Pls 1 and 3]
1B	20	1.8	0.87	0-0.38m topsoil, 0.38-0.87m subsoil overlaying a reddish brown clay with small stone inclusions natural geology at the southern end and yellow clay natural and the northern end. Features include a shallow ditch (3) and a land drain. [Pls 2 and 4]

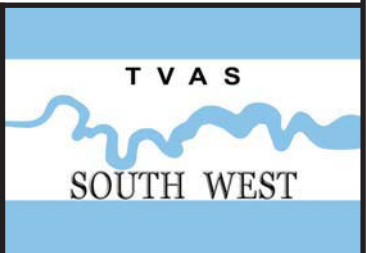
APPENDIX 2: Feature details

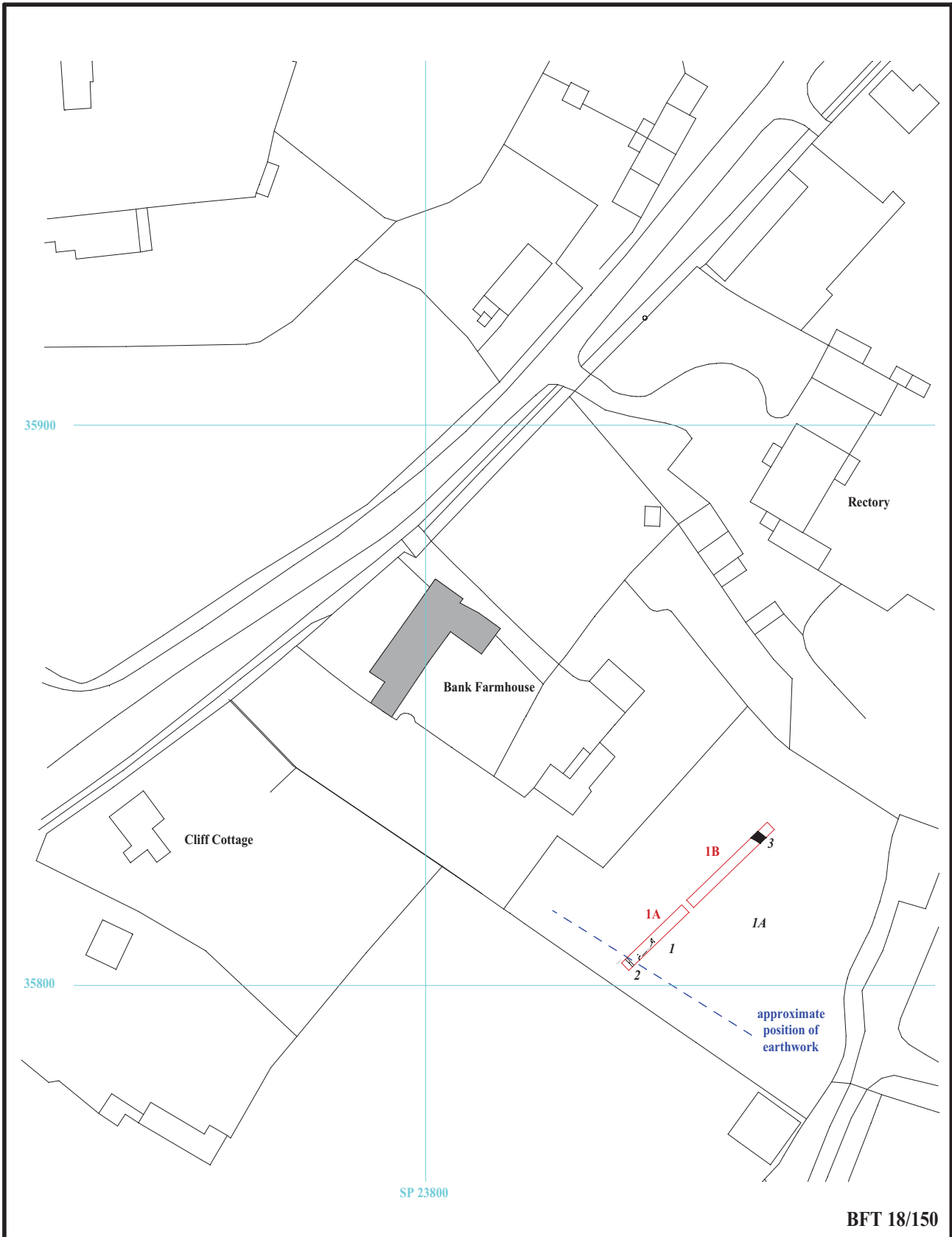
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1A		52		modern	modern plastic sheeting
1A	1	53	roots	undated	
1A	2	54	utilities trench	modern	
1B	3	55	Ditch	undated	



**Bank Farmhouse, Todenham,
Moreton-In-Marsh, Gloucestershire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**
Figure 1. Location of site within Todenham and
Gloucestershire.

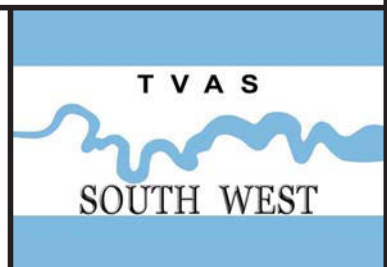
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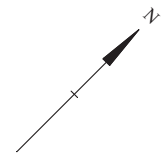
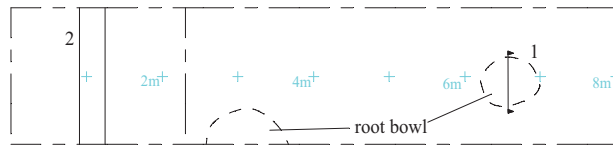


**Bank Farmhouse, Todenham,
Moreton-In-Marsh, Gloucestershire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

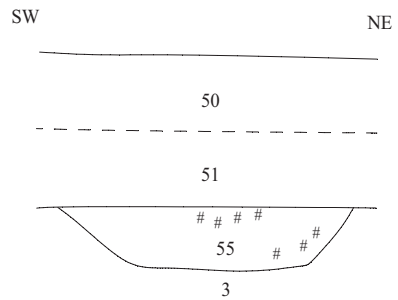
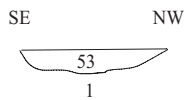
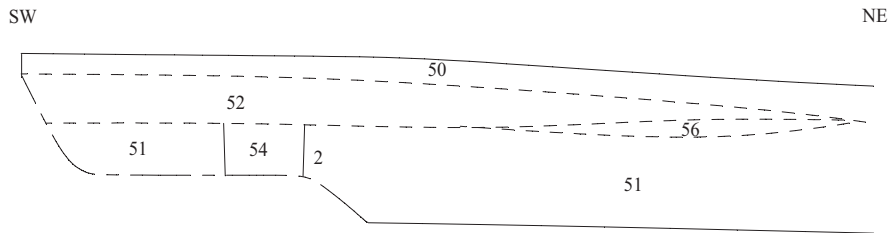
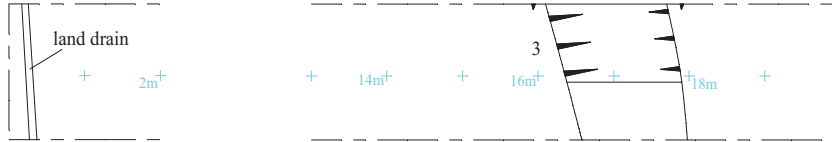
Figure 2. Location of trenches.



Trench 1A



Trench 1B



BFT 18/150

**Bank Farmhouse, Todenham,
Moreton-In-Marsh, Gloucestershire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Details of trench.





Plate 1. Trench 1A, looking south-west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 1B, looking south-west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

BFT 18/150

**Bank Farmhouse, Todenham,
Moreton-In-Marsh, Gloucestershire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.**





Plate 3. Cut 2 and deposit 52, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Ditch 3, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

BFT 18/150

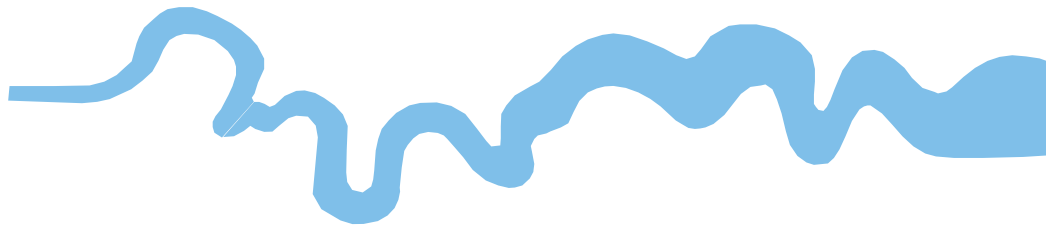
**Bank Farmhouse, Todenham,
Moreton-In-Marsh, Gloucestershire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.**



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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