Chesterton Water Main, Chesterton Farm, Stratton - Archaeological Evaluation Report

MGroup Ltd

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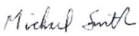
Reviewed By:			
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Executive Summary

Cura Terrae was commissioned by MGroup Ltd (hereafter 'the Client'), to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a proposed water pipeline connecting existing services in Gloucester Road, just north of Stratton, Gloucestershire to existing services located in the footprint of a trackway to the east of Ewe Pens Farm.

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA) was produced by AECOM in 2025 and a geophysical survey was undertaken Headland Archaeology in 2025. The results of the geophysical survey indicate the presence of a small Roman settlement or farmstead located partly within the south-western portion of the Site, with several features including a trackway and a double-ditched enclosure extending partially within the Site route.

The archaeological works fulfilled the aims and objectives set out in the WSI produced by AECOM (2025b) and the Method Statement produced by Cura Terrae Ltd (2025). The results of the archaeological evaluation did mostly conform to the results of the geophysical survey where expected archaeology matched the results of the trench. Possible archaeological features from the geophysical survey were not observed by the trench evaluation results, except for in Trench 21 as the new pipeline route was sited to avoid the anomalies noted in the geophysical survey where ever possible.

Trench 19 identified what appears to be a Romano-British trackway with an accompanying ditch to the north of the trackway. The trackway matches results from the geophysical survey and continues west towards the Roman settlement within the same field of the Site. The two gullies of the trackway are 1.20 m apart which is roughly the average width for Roman cart wheels, with the ditch to the north likely used to help with drainage of the trackway. Trench 21 observed a ditch with an unclear purpose but may have been part of a wider field system in relation to the Romano-British settlement to the west.

Trenches 12, 14, 15, and 16 also revealed the presence of a paleochannel or accumulation of alluvium that exists within the field F6 which runs on an east by west alignment, north east of the Romano-British settlement observed in the results of the geophysical survey. The deposits were not hand investigated during the trench evaluation due to existing at a depth below the impact of the proposed development.

A high proportion of the finds assemblage of the evaluation was recovered from topsoil or subsoil layers. Moreover, the entire assemblage was minimal and fragmentary, likely being residual and associated with the wider area rather than the immediate Site or features. The material was probably redistributed through ploughing or similar agricultural activities undertaken at and around the Site, during the post-medieval to modern periods.

The archaeological evaluation was also successful in gaining a better understanding of the varied natural geology of the Site which mostly conformed with the British Geological Survey (BGS 2025).

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Cura Terrae was commissioned by MGroup Ltd (hereafter 'the Client'), to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a proposed water pipeline connecting existing services in Gloucester Road, just north of Stratton, Gloucestershire to existing services located in the footprint of a trackway to the east of Ewe Pens Farm (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site is centred on National Grid Co-ordinate 400768, 203255 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA) was produced for the Site by AECOM in 2025 (AECOM 2025a). A Geophysical Survey was also undertaken by Headland Archaeology in January 2025 (Headland Archaeology 2025). The results of the geophysical survey indicate the presence of a small Roman settlement or farmstead located partly within the south-western portion of the Site, with several features including a trackway and a double-ditched enclosure extending partially within the Site route.

1.1.3 Cura Terrae was appointed by the MGroup Ltd (the 'Principal Contractor') to undertake the archaeological trial trench evaluation works. AECOM prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that presented the proposed methodology and standards for the archaeological evaluation due to be undertaken at the Site (AECOM 2025b). Cura Terrae Ltd also prepared a Method Statement (Cura Terrae 2025) in conjunction with the methodology and procedures set out in the WSI (AECOM 2025b).

1.1.4 The fieldwork was undertaken between 13th and 30th October 2025.

1.1.5 This report presents a digest of information on the character and significance of the deposits under review and will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate further action, including mitigation if required by the LPA. This report will also aim to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

1.2 Proposed Development

1.2.1 The proposed development comprises the installation of a new watermain between the northern extent of Gloucester Road and an unnamed trackway to the south, extending for approximately 2.2km on a southward trajectory across several large enclosed agricultural fields.

1.2.2 The watermain is expected to be 1m in width and excavated to a depth of 1m, with a construction easement of approximately 25m from either side of the pipeline.

1.3 Site Description

Location

1.3.1 The Site is located approximately 1.3km north of the town of Cirencester, and adjacent to the west of the small settlement of Stratton, Gloucestershire. The Site is situated within a largely rural and agricultural landscape, with the Site bounded on all sides by enclosed postmedieval fields. To the east, the urban development of Stratton is separated from the Site's fields by Gloucester Road, which forms a clear boundary between built-up and rural areas.

1.3.2 The Site crosses eight fields, and every field has been given a unique identifier in the WSI (F1 to F8). The evaluation trenches are located in All fields except for F5 The greatest number of trenches (13 trenches) were located in F6 to the north and east of the settlement site.

Topography

1.3.3 The topography of the Site formed a valley between two slopes. F8 at the south-east lay on broadly level ground at 131.36 m aOD. The ground started to slope down to the north in F7, and proceeded to decline in two steps with trench 21 being at 125.15 m aOD with trench 3 in F2 being at120.91 m aOD. The ground then rose up again to the north with trench 2 in F1 being at 143.12 m aOD.

Geology

1.3.4 The underlying geology of the site is recorded as Forest Marble Formation – Mudstone and Limestone. The mudstone and the limestone are both sedimentary bedrocks formed between 168 and 166 million years ago during the Jurassic Period (British Geological Survey 2025 – BGS).

1.3.5 No superficial deposits are recorded for the Site (*Ibid*).

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is adapted from the WSI (AECOM 2025b). The WSI summarises the historical background set out within the DBA (AECOM 2025a) which utilised a 1 km study area surrounding the Site.

2.1.2 The Gloucestershire Historic Environment (GHER) records use the prefix 'HER', National Heritage List for England uses the prefix 'NHLE' for non-designated and designated heritage assets. Any additional assets identified by the DBA through cartographic regression and previous archaeological investigations are identified in the text using the assigned prefix 'AEC' (AECOM 2025b).

2.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

2.2.1 A total of 82 previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within 1km of the Site. Most of these investigations were undertaken throughout the 19th and 20th centuries around the settlement core of Cirencester. Investigations carried out close to the High Street, Dollar Street, Tetbury Road, and Gloucester Street (HER34706, HER30248, HER21292, HER28766, HER21007, HER20702) identified continual occupation from the Roman period. Three archaeological investigations have been undertaken along Gloucester Road (HER28515, HER28519, and HER21850) between 1880 and 1970. These investigations have found surviving remains of the Roman road Ermin Street (HER7542), in the form of several gravel layers of road and grooves made from wooden cartwheels.

2.2.2 Between 1868 and 1896, three archaeological observations were undertaken during the excavation of Barton Gravel Pit (HER2091, HER28486, and HER28488), c. 400m east of the Site. The remains of several skeletons were found, two of which were almost complete, together with fragments of black and grey pottery (HER28573 and HER28574).

2.2.3 In 2016, a watching brief (HER49019) was undertaken at Stratton Place, Stratton, approximately 400m east of the Site. No archaeological features were recorded. A trial trench evaluation (HER48705), also undertaken in 2016, c. 50m further east, identified archaeological features associated with a small carrier leat and adjacent extant water-meadows, two quarry pits, and three postholes.

2.2.4 A single archaeological investigation has been undertaken within the Site, consisting of an archaeological appraisal undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 1993 (HER42602). It was undertaken for an Objectors Route relating to the A419/417 Cirencester and Stratton Bypass, extending through the Site. Whilst Ermin Street itself is partly situated within the Site beneath Gloucester Road, the appraisal identified no other Roman remains within the Site.

Geophysical Survey

2.2.5 Headland Archaeology have undertaken a geophysical survey across the Site, and some of the nearby fields (Headland Archaeology 2025). Results identified a small Romano-British farmstead or settlement within the south-western portion of the Site. A trackway, double ditched enclosure, and several linear features have been recorded extending within the Site (AEC001) and (AEC002).

2.3 Historic Context

2.3.1 Three scheduled monuments are located within the 1km study area, consisting of Corinium Roman Town (NHLE1003426), which is located approximately 500m south-east of the Site, Wellhill Copse Round Barrow (NHLE1003417), and St John's Hospital Chantry (NHLE1003428), respectively c. 880m west and east of the Site.

2.3.2 There are 253 non-designated archaeological assets identified within the 1km study area. The Site boundary extends through the following eight non-designated assets in the fields' locations:

- Cropmarks between Daglingworth Place and Ermine Way (HER4768) in F1;
- A medieval or post medieval trackway, possible lynchet and a drainage ditch, Cirencester (HER33125) in F2;
- Archaeological remains of Ermin Street Roman Road (HER7542) in F4-F7;
- Small Roman Settlement (AEC001) in F6;
- Later Prehistoric or Roman road or trackway visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, Cirencester (HER33141) in F8;
- Five medieval or post-medieval limestone quarries or extractive pits, Daglingworth (HER33123) in F8;
- A possible Later Prehistoric or Roman boundary ditch visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs Cirencester (HER33213) in F8; and
- Late Prehistoric/Romano-British Linear Feature (AEC002) in F8.

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

2.3.3 No Early Prehistoric archaeological remains have been identified within 1km of the Site.

Neolithic to Iron Age

2.3.4 The vast majority of Neolithic activity in of Gloucestershire has been identified on the Cotswold Uplands. However, signs of temporary occupation in the form of pits and lithic scatters are increasingly being found in low-lying areas, particularly along the Upper Thames terraces (Lamdin-Whymark 2003). In addition, burials, henges, hengi-form monuments, and cursus monuments have also been recorded at Shorncote Quarry (Barclay et al 1995) south of the Site, and at Lechdale to the east (Thomas and Holbrook et al 1998). Long barrow burial mounds mark the wider landscape, with perhaps Belas Knap

(NHLE1008199) being the single example within the county. Beaker culture pottery has been recovered from a wide number of sites, particularly from the Cotswold dip-slope where the Site is located.

2.3.5 Every terrace of the Upper Thames Valley is rich in Bronze Age finds and sites. Significant sites include ring ditches at St Augustine's Lane southeast of Cirencester (Mudd et al 1999), several monuments and ring ditches near Lechdale (Allen et al 1993), and a ring ditch at Somerford Keynes. The location of these sites, scattered across a wide area, and the scarcity of related defensive enclosures might imply a gradual shift of occupation from one area to the next by successive Bronze Age generations (Darvill 2006).

2.3.6 Archaeological funerary evidence of Late Neolithic or Bronze Age date has been identified within the 1km study area, with two likely round barrows (HER33198 and HER33199) located 130m and 230m east of the Site; and two other round barrows (HER4948 and HER53730) respectively c. 170m and 990m west of the Site.

2.3.7 The area now known as Gloucestershire was inhabited by Brythonic Celts during the Iron Age. At the time, the town of Cirencester was the tribal capital of the Dobunni. Unenclosed nucleated settlements have been recorded at Lechdale (Allen et al 1993), Shorncote (Hearne and Adam 1999), and Dryleaze Farm (Kelly and Laws 2002), indicating widespread occupation of the landscape throughout the Iron Age, with occupation patterns having clear Bronze Age antecedents. These settlements consisted of small dwellings, field boundaries, ditched enclosures, and storage pits.

2.3.8 There is evidence of significant Late Prehistoric or Early Roman settlement within the fields to the west of Gloucester Road, with aerial photography identifying several enclosures (HER33211) 100m west of the Site. A large settlement is recorded 840m north-west of the Site (HER17050), with cropmarks that suggest the presence of enclosures, trackways, pits, and field boundaries (HER2104, HER4766, HER33203, HER33204, and HER33201).

2.3.9 A large settlement has been identified (HER33200) approximately 200m east of the Site. Several rectilinear enclosures (HER33212 and HER33211) are located between 80m and 110m on either side of the Site. Other evidence of prehistoric settlement includes field boundaries or trackways (HER33141, HER33142, and HER33204), approximately 20m east of the Site, with several trackways identified within the Site (HER33205 and HER33213).

2.3.10 Fieldwalking identified widespread evidence of activity in the agricultural fields west of Gloucester Road, consisting of flint flakes (HER32538 and HER6688), Iron Age pottery (HER50139), and a bronze socketed spearhead (HER28572).

Romano-British

2.3.11 Traditionally, Romano-British occupation in the south-west of England is dated to the years following the invasion (43 CE). The campaigns westwards were led by the future emperor, Vespasian, under the imperial command of Claudius (Holbrook 2012). Corinium Dobunnorum (NHLE1003426),

approximately 500m south-east of the Site where modern Cirencester is standing, was the second-largest city in Roman Britain and one of the most important in the region. The foundation of Cirencester in proximity to the earlier oppidum of Bagendon has been interpreted as an effort by local pro-Roman Dobunnic leaders to demonstrate local Romanisation (Holbrook 2006). Defensive features of Corinium Dobunnorum consisted of remains of an earthen bank and rampart (HER28630 and HER28637) and the foundations of the city wall (HER28635) identified north-east of the South Way, approximately 980m east of the Site. Archaeological investigations undertaken within the city centre have recorded occupational evidence such as pits (HER8505, HER28506, and HER28507), wells (HER8916), cobbled surfaces and structural foundations (HER28704, HER28858, and HER403), and inhumations (HER28853 and HER9154). The surviving foundations of Gloucester Gate (HER8895) were also identified at the junction of Gloucester Road and Dollar Street, c. 880m east of the Site.

2.3.12 Cirencester's importance was also related to its location at the crossroads between the main arterial Roman roads of Ermin Way, the Fosse Way, and Akerman Street. These roads linked Cirencester with the major urban centres of Roman Britain, making it an important focal point for trading in the area and the centre of Roman administration for the west of England. Ermin Street (HER7542) is partially located within the Site beneath the existing Gloucester Road. Further Roman roads, including a road linking Bath to Cirencester Road (HER32859), have been identified 340m south of the Site.

2.3.13 Roman Cirencester's hinterlands are also rich in archaeological remains from this period, including both settlement activities and other activities. Evidence of Roman quarrying activity was recorded during archaeological investigations to the east of Ermine Street (HER28465), approximately 580m east of the Site. A Roman villa (HER2092), 'the Barton Villa', was found at Barton Farm during the removal of a tree in 1825, c. 420m south-east of the Site. OS maps identified further remains of a pavement (HER32643) at the villa. In the 19th century, seven inhumations (HER32207) were discovered during gravel extraction to the north of the villa, 260m east of the Site.

2.3.14 The colloquially known area of 'Querns' (HER2121) is a defined area of land west of Corinium, just south of Tetbury Road and north of Cotswold Avenue, approximately 940m south of the Site. Archaeological investigations throughout the 19th and 20th centuries have identified a large Roman cemetery, characterised by stone coffins and a mixture of adult and neonate burials. Two further stone coffins (HER28866 and HER2867) were recorded just north of the Querns cemetery within the current location of Earl Bathurst's Park, c. 800m south-east of the Site. In the Roman period, burials were sometimes located along the main roads, outside of towns. This practice contextualises the further inhumations recorded in 1886, close to the route of Ermine Street, c. 270m east of the Site (HER2103 and HER29092).

2.3.15 Other Roman evidence is related to the likely rural character of the Site's surroundings, being located outside of Corinium's walls. A substantially sized settlement (HER38018) extending across an area approximately 400m by 200m has been identified approximately 790m north-west of the Site. Features consist of earthworks identified as the remains of a Roman structure, with potential tessellated pavement, a series of Roman ditches, trackways, and enclosures. Roman occupation in the fields to the west of Gloucester Road consists of earthworks relating to a Roman structure (HER2110), c. 85m west of the Site.

2.3.16 A geophysical survey of the Site and surrounding fields has identified several potential assets. These had been interpreted as potentially Roman assets due to the substantial occupation of the area during this period. An area showing the presence of several potential features had been interpreted as a small settlement, which includes a trackway, a rectilinear double ditch enclosure, and further curvilinear features (AEC001). Towards the southern end of the Site, there is a further linear feature, which may be Late Prehistoric or Roman (AEC002).

Early medieval

2.3.17 The archaeological investigations carried out in Cirencester have indicated that the town was fortified in the 5th or 6th century. In 628, historical sources mention that the Mercian King Penda fought against the West Saxon Kings Cynegils and Cwichelm during what will be known as the Battle of Cirencester. However, the exact location of the battle has not been identified as yet. In c. 700, the church built in Cirencester is now the oldest known Saxon church in England. The minster church of Cirencester was founded in the 9th or 10th century.

2.3.18 Although still maintaining a certain degree of occupation, it does not seem that Cirencester greatly developed from Roman times during the Anglo-Saxon period. The place name of the town of Siddington, located 500m east of the Site, has probable Anglo-Saxon origins, meaning 'south-town', likely derived from its proximity to Cirencester (Nottingham 2025), implying a degree of importance of Cirencester within the broad landscape.

2.3.19 Archaeological evidence from this period is relatively rare and does not include settlements. The Barton Villa and the surrounding area appear to have still been in use during the early medieval period, notably in the form of two inhumations (HER2093) discovered during repairs of the mosaic of the villa in 1909, c. 350m south-east of the Site. A second Anglo-Saxon burial with an associated iron spear was recorded during 19th-century gravel extraction at Barton Gravel Pit (HER28573 and HER28574), c. 400m east of the Site. A third Anglo-Saxon burial (HER2109) was also recorded in the fields approximately 120m west of the Site.

2.3.20 A hoard of coins dating to the Anglo-Saxon period (HER49761) was also recovered in the 19th century during gravel extraction at Barton Gravel Pit, c. 270m east of the Site.

2.3.21 Occupation evidence has been recorded within the study area in the form of a sunken-floored building (HER47586), identified during archaeological investigations along Old Tetbury Road (HER47586), approximately 970m south of the Site.

Medieval

2.3.22 Cirencester continued to be occupied throughout the medieval period, as confirmed by the Domesday Book (Open Domesday 2025), recording that settlements at Cirencester comprised 63.5 households, while Stratton comprised 29 households. This indicates that settlement activity in the area was well established by the time of the Norman Conquest (Rippon and Croft 2007). Archaeological investigations identified occupational evidence close to the High Street and town centre, between 700m and 1km

south-east of the Site. Evidence of medieval flooring associated with housing (HER28859) was recorded during archaeological investigations at Coxwell Street, while the remains of several almshouses and demolition deposits (HER30987 and HER10759) were found along Dollar Street. A wall foundation and evidence of several layers of flooring (HER49587) were uncovered during archaeological investigations at Thomas Street. Occupational layers dated to the 13th century (HER8885) were recorded during archaeological investigations at Coxhill Street. During archaeological investigations at Abberley House (HER28872), light brown glazed medieval pottery was recorded.

2.3.23 Whilst Cirencester Abbey was the ecclesiastical focal point not only of the city, but also of the whole south-west of England, several further ecclesiastical structures have been identified within the 1km study area. Almery Grange (HER655) was originally a grange (outlying farm with tithe barns belonging to an ecclesiastical institution) associated with Cirencester Abbey, with its original location c. 1km south-east of the Site. The location of the Church of St Lawrence (HER28566) was potentially located where the Cirencester Hospital stands nowadays. If this were confirmed, it would confirm the shifting of the medieval settlement further north than the Roman town centre.

2.3.24 Evidence of medieval limestone quarrying has been identified in the fields to the east of Gloucester Road (HER33140), approximately 990m east of the Site, and just to the west of Gloucester Road, between 50m (HER33214) and 340m east of the Site. Five medieval quarry pits (HER33123) have been recorded within the Site.

2.3.25 The area around the Site was outside of the medieval city walls and remained largely rural and dominated by agricultural use throughout the medieval period. A medieval or post-medieval field system in the form of ten terraces and lynchets (HER2127) has been identified approximately 380m west of the Site. Analysis of aerial photography identified evidence of medieval agricultural activity in the form of ridge and furrow cultivation in the fields surrounding Stratton (HER51398), c. 680m east of the Site, and within the fields located to the west of Gloucester Road (HER51386), extending within the Site.

2.3.26 Aerial photography analysis identified a likely medieval settlement (HER9865) c. 210m east of the Site, in the fields adjacent to Gloucester Road, in the form of the remains of a potential barn enclosed by a subrectangular bank, several lynchets, and banked ditches. A second late medieval or early post-medieval settlement was identified partially extending within the Site, in the form of cropmarks and extant earthworks that include tofts, crofts, lynchets, linear ditches and banks, and enclosures (HER9863).

Post-medieval

2.3.27 Cirencester followed the trend of much of the Cotswolds and benefited from a thriving wool trade during the post-medieval period. It became an important market town, acting as a focal point for the smaller villages and hamlets in the south-west. Urban expansion of Cirencester within the centre of the settlement, between 700m and 1km south-east of the Site, includes several structures built and demolished during the 17th and 19th centuries. These consist of 19th-century wall foundations and a brick floor of several now demolished houses (HER30249, HER28703, HER32751, and HER288860); a

post-medieval well and a robber trench (HER35013), yard surfaces, and several property boundaries (HER10758) along Dollar Street; post-medieval wells along Gloucester Road (HER32296 and HER32298) and Thomas Street (HER32233), several cess pits and the remains of a foundation trench (HER28691 and HER28692) at Powell's School; several post-medieval almshouses along Spitalgate Lane (HER28585), and at the corner of Gloucester Street and Barton Road (HER4830); now demolished smithies (HER28881, HER28510, and HER28511) along Park Street; remains of schools (HER32625 and HER28751) along Dollar Street; swimming baths (HER28849); the Loyal Volunteer Public House (HER28515); the Dolphin Public House (HER28882); and a small cemetery along Thomas Street (HER30251).

2.3.28 Much of the landscape surrounding Cirencester continued to be used for agricultural farming and as pasture for sheep grazing, and its current character was partly shaped by post-18th-century development. Significant changes to the landscape occurred in 1787 when the Cirencester branch of the Severn and Thames Canal was completed. The canal was opened to traffic in 1789 and, despite problems of water flow and leaks, served as a major industrial artery. Another significant transformation occurred throughout the 19th century, with the construction of the Cheltenham and Great Western Railway in 1845. The railway line (HER11189) is located approximately 1km west of the Site.

2.3.29 More complicated is the dating of some earthworks related to drainage and irrigation. The area between Daglingworth Stream and Barton Mill pond has many traces of water meadow earthworks (HER9844 and HER9867) located in a layout pre-dating the current field system between 340m and 400m east of the Site. Barton Mill (HER8868) is also located to the east of the water meadows, 530m east of the Site, with an associated post-medieval well (HER28577 and HER28579). Several undated banks (HER9866) that have been truncated by these water meadows have been identified adjacent to Gloucester Road, approximately 300m east of the Site. Eighteenth-century water meadow features (HER9819) and associated water management features (HER52684) have also been recognised from aerial photographs to the east of Stratton, c. 1km east of the Site, while a well (HER28478) is approximately 900m east of the Site.

2.3.30 The rural character of the Site's immediate surroundings is further confirmed by the record of several trackways, with an east-to-west aligned holloway (HER33131) and a trackway known colloquially as 'the Greenway' (HER9838) located 300m east of the Site. Moreover, evidence of post-medieval ridge and furrow is located east of Gloucester Road (HER28466), approximately 560m east of the Site.

2.3.31 The earliest map of the Site is the 1775 map of Preston, Baunton, Cirencester, and Stratton (Gloucestershire Archive Reference D1388). The modern layout of Stratton had been established by this period. The map depicts large open fields to the west of Gloucester Road, with the Site extending across several post-medieval field boundaries.

2.3.32 Evidence of post-medieval quarrying (HER51754) has been identified close to the Old Kennels, approximately 920m south of the Site. A group of post-medieval limestone quarry pits (HER33186) has been identified extending within the Site.

Modern and Undated

2.3.33 Under the continued patronage of the Earls Bathurst, the Cirencester area became a major centre for the Arts and Crafts movement in the Cotswolds. The heritage resource of the area has been carefully managed throughout the 20th century, and the existing landscape retains much of its pre-modern character, as also confirmed by the map regression (AECOM 2025). Modern infrastructures within the study area, hence, include Second World War (WW2) military features: Daglingworth Military Camp (HER21724), used to house American soldiers and later as a Polish resettlement camp administered with standing remains of Nissen huts, operation blocks, and water supply tanks located 120m north of the Site; a radio station (HER33124), in form of earthworks approximately 25m west of the Site; an American military hospital (HER30348) with remains of Nissen huts, sports fields, mess huts, and guardhouses standing c. 350m south of the Site; and a loopholed wall (HER51754), potentially part of the WW2 defences of Cirencester recorded 930m south of the Site. Several modern small finds, including a button from a military jacket (HER28503), were recovered from an allotment to the rear of Gloucester Street, c. 600m east of the Site.

2.3.34 Quarrying activity continued in the form of several quarry pits (HER33132), approximately 840m east of the Site, at Baunton.

2.3.35 Aerial photography analysis has identified several undated cropmarks and earthworks within the fields west of Stratton in proximity to the Site. These include extensive undated linear cropmarks that form a grid pattern (HER4767) approximately 140m north-west of the Site; an undated linear ditch (HER4771) just to the east of Gloucester Road, c. 20m east of the Site; a potential pit alignment (HER4769) approximately 500m north of the Site; and several rectilinear enclosures (HER4242) c. 660m east of the Site.

2.3.36 Other undated features were identified during archaeological investigations, including an undated linear ditch (HER30260) at Stratton Mills, approximately 940m east of the Site; a series of undated water management features (HER28464), in the fields east of Gloucester Road, c. 600m east of the Site; multiple undated gravel extraction pits (HER49760) and a spread of undated finds (HER28489) at Barton Gravel Pit, approximately 270m east of the Site.

2.3.37 Notably, undated linear features extend within the Site (HER4768).

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information to:

- Identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric within the identified areas of interest;
- Determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any encountered or exposed archaeological remains;
- Recover artefacts and dating evidence from any archaeological feature encountered;
- Accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas and establish the sequence of archaeological remains and natural deposits present on the Site;
- To retrieve any environmental archaeological evidence relating to past environments and economy of the Site;
- Prepare a comprehensive record; and
- Interpret the archaeological features and finds within the context of the known archaeology of the Site and the surrounding area;

3.1.2 The objectives of the project are:

- to confirm the presence or absence of surviving archaeological remains within the area of trial trench evaluation and, where present, to determine and record their location, extent, depth, character, date, and state of preservation - particularly in relation to a possible association with the Roman settlement (AEC001) and potential Roman linear feature (AEC002).
- to document the nature, complexity, and significance of any archaeological remains encountered;
- to record the range, quality, and quantity of any artefactual and environmental evidence present;
- to produce a comprehensive archaeological record of any remains identified within the Site;
- to further determine the potential for further surviving archaeological remains within the Site;
- to inform the determination of a suitable mitigation strategy, if appropriate; and
- to interpret the archaeological evidence within the local, regional, and national archaeological context.

3.1.3 Whilst the specific aims and objectives outlined above were utilised, they were also subject to change and addition as the work progressed. Any changes would have been conveyed to the Client and the LPA Archaeologist.

3.1.4 This evaluation report presents a digest of information on the character and significance of the deposits under review and this report will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate further action. The evaluation will also aim to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

Research Agenda

3.1.5 The Site has the potential to contribute information that may inform on the broad principles and key questions posed in the South West England Research Framework (2012). The key questions and research aims posed in the research framework objectives relevant to the project are:

- 15c: The period is characterised by a growing diversity of rural settlement and activities within that rural settlement. More systematic studies of vernacular architecture as applied to both housing and other rural buildings are required, particularly at the humbler end of the scale. Little work has been done to examine the archaeological evidence of agricultural improvement apart from a few specific examples of landscape;
- 29a: Whilst work in the past has concentrated on villa buildings, developer funded work has made considerable advances in the study of non-villa rural settlement in certain parts of the region, such as the M4/M5 corridors, the Upper Thames valley, and the outskirts of the Bristol conurbation. Elsewhere, the record is very patchy and there has been little study of the environmental/economic data such as bones and seeds which ought to provide information on the agricultural base in different parts of the region;
- 29c: Apart from in these areas, the visibility of Roman sites should allow more geographical approaches to their study, such as the identification of differing settlement densities and types across the region (and perhaps beyond). This would provide a useful counterbalance to earlier studies of villa distributions and provide a greater understanding of the nature of the Roman countryside. Developer-funded work associated with linear schemes such as roads and pipelines provides raw data which requires further synthesis before it can be used to address such questions; and
- 3l: In the Roman period the South West appears to show several unique features when compared to the rest of the country: the apparent late founding and wealth of the villas, later Roman pagan temples etc. These need to be understood, not just for our understanding of the Roman period but also to understand the way the region developed in succeeding periods.

4. Methodology for Archaeological Evaluation

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section sets out the methodology for the archaeological evaluation, as outlined in the WSI (AECOM 2025b) and Method Statement (Cura Terrae 2025).

4.1.2 As the appointed contractor, the evaluation was undertaken by Cura Terrae, a CIfA Registered Organisation. All work was undertaken by experienced staff who are corporate members of CIfA, or who demonstrably work to an equivalent standard for fieldwork.

4.2 Standards and Guidelines

4.2.1 The project conforms to the current national and regional guidance as set out by Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Historic England:

- *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2020a);
- *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2020b);
- *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2022);
- *Standard for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2023a) and *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2023b);
- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015b); and
- Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2011).

4.2.2 Any changes to the methodology would have been agreed with the LPA Archaeologist in advance of the work being undertaken.

4.3 Purpose of Evaluation Standards

4.3.1 The purpose of the archaeological evaluation standards is to provide information on the character and significance of remains present. The results of the archaeological evaluation will be used to determine the need for and scope of any further archaeological works. The requirement for any further work would be decided by the LPA Archaeologist.

4.4 Trench Location

4.4.1 A trenching plan had been devised to test the archaeological preservation across the site, maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the significance of the archaeological resource is understood to a level of detail proportionate to its importance.

4.4.2 The archaeological evaluation comprises 24 trenches; measuring 30 m long and 2 m wide. Trenches were excavated to the top of archaeologically significant remains or the natural geology, whichever was higher.

4.4.3 The trenches were located along the route of the proposed water main targeting features identified in the geophysical survey, as well as blank areas.

4.4.4 The centre point of each end of the trench was located on the ground using differential Global Positioning System (dGPS) technology.

4.4.5 Each trench was scanned with a cable avoidance tool (CAT) prior to excavation and if necessary rescanned at subsequent intervals during excavation.

4.5 Trench Excavation Methodology

4.5.1 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine work was carried out under the direct supervision of an archaeologist.

4.5.2 All topsoil and recent overburden was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever is encountered first, in successive level spits.

4.5.3 Excavated topsoil, subsoil, and other deposits were stored separately, set back at least 1 m from the edges of the excavated trenches.

4.5.4 Both ends of the trenches were ramped to allow safe ingress and egress. Plant was not allowed to track within excavated trenches prior to reinstatement.

4.5.5 The stratigraphy of all trenches was recorded. Spoil heaps were monitored to allow analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.

4.5.6 Any revealed archaeological features or deposits were cleaned by hand prior to excavation. The aim of this was to record all significant archaeological features within each trench, and to undertake sufficient intrusive excavation to enable the date, character, form, and stratigraphic relationship to be understood.

4.5.7 The following strategy was employed as a typical sample level for hand excavated features:

- Linear features: A minimum sample of 10% of each linear feature or a single intervention of not less than 1m, where the depositional sequence is consistent along the length. Multi-phase linear features with complex variations of fill type will be sampled sufficiently in order to understand the phasing and sequence of deposition. Where possible, one section will be located and recorded adjacent to a trench edge. If appropriate, all intersections will be investigated to determine the relationships between features. All termini will be investigated;
- Discrete features: Pits, post-holes, and other isolated features will normally be half-sectioned. A minimum requirement to meet the project objectives will be agreed in consultation with the Consultant. If large pits or deposits (over 1.5m in diameter) are encountered, then the sample excavated should be sufficient to define the extent and maximum depth of the feature and to achieve the objectives of the archaeological works, but should not be less than 25%;
- Structures: Each structure will be cleaned and sampled sufficiently to define the extent, depth, form, method of construction, materials, phasing, and stratigraphic complexity of the component features and their associated deposits to achieve the objectives of the archaeological works. The remains of all upstanding walls and surviving floors will be hand cleaned sufficiently to understand and record their dimensions, extent, composition, sequence, and relationships. Sections will be excavated across walls, where appropriate, to provide the best record of the construction, phasing, relationships, profile, and foundations. Where relevant, intersections between surviving walls, foundations, and surviving floor surfaces will be investigated to determine the relationship(s) between the structural components and abutting walls.

4.5.8 All archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them.

4.5.9 All work was undertaken with the view to avoid damage to any surviving archaeological remains which appear to be worthy of preservation *in situ*. If such remains were identified this would have been discussed with both the Client and LPA Archaeologist.

4.5.10 Trench backfilling only took place under appropriate conditions and with archaeological supervision, following approval by the LPA Archaeologist. Arisings were returned to each trench in the correct order.

4.6 Recording Methodology

4.6.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using a continuous numbered context system on a proforma recording system in accordance with industry standards. The written record is hierarchically based and centred on the context record. Each context record fully describes the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and cross-referenced to all other assigned records. Written recording was undertaken in a digital format using the Diggit application (https://www.diggitarchaeology.com).

4.6.2 The trenches as excavated and all archaeological features were surveyed by means of a differential Global Positioning System (dGPS). Drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.

4.6.3 A photographic record of the Site was taken using digital photography at a minimum resolution of 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

Output was in TIFF/JPEG format. All digital photography was undertaken in accordance with national guidance (Historic England 2015a).

4.7 Finds

4.7.1 A finds assessment report is provided in Appendix B.

4.7.2 Finds were treated and cleaned in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2020a) and Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023a and b).

4.7.3 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained and recorded by context. All finds were exposed, lifted, processed, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged, and boxed in accordance with the requirements of the receiving museum. Any finds requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 2001).

4.8 Environmental Sampling

4.8.1 An environmental sampling assessment report is provided in Appendix C. One archaeological feature was considered possibly suitable for environmental sampling and was sampled for its possible environmental potential.

4.8.2 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro-fossils, small animal and fish bones and other small artefacts were taken from appropriate well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological deposits. The collection and processing of environmental samples were in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Campbell et al. 2011).

4.8.3 The residues and sieved fractions of the bulk environmental soil samples were recorded and retained with the project archive. For charred material, bulk samples of 20l in volume were taken for processing by flotation. All samples were floated on a 250–300 mm mesh and the heavy residues washed over a 0.5–1 mm mesh. The heavy residues were scanned with a magnet to recover microslags. A statement on the environmental potential of excavated deposits has been appended to the final report. Any samples identified for further analysis will be fully processed.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section presents the results of the archaeological evaluation. The context descriptions are reproduced in Appendix A.

5.1.2 The evaluation consisted of 24 mechanically excavated trenches. The trench results are shown in Figures 2-6 which is overlaid on the geophysical survey interpretation. The results of Trenches 19 and 21 shown in Figure 6,

5.2 Results

5.2.1 A summary description of each trench follows in Appendix A and a summary of trench levels in m above Ordnance Datum (m aOD) in Table 1.

Table 1: Trench level summary

Trench	Base		Top	
Trench 1	Min 136.898 S	Max 139.570 N	Min 136.569 S	Max 139.230 N
Trench 2	Min 141.658 SW	Max 143.124 NE	Min 141.517 SW	Max 142.918 NE
Trench 3	Min 118.690 S	Max 120.916 N	Min 117.212 S	Max 120.302 N
Trench 4	Min 120.968 E	Max 122.072 W	Min 120.698 E	Max 121.788 W
Trench 5	Min 126.968 E	Max 127.654 W	Min 126.579 E	Max 127.425 W
Trench 6	Min 128.443 SE	Max 128.521 NW	Min 127.791 SE	Max 128.231 NW
Trench 7	Min 127.784 S	Max 128.068 N	Min 127.220 S	Max 127.579 N
Trench 8	Min 126.601 N	Max 126.930 S	Min 125.967 N	Max 126.629 S
Trench 9	Min 125.416 E	Max 126.741 W	Min 125.195 E	Max 126.534 W
Trench 10	Min 124.641 SE	Max 125.383 NW	Min 124.368 SE	Max 125.169 NW
Trench 11	Min 124.000 N	Max 125.006 S	Min 123.665 N	Max 124.828 S
Trench 12	Min 121.485 N	Max 122.408 S	Min 120.958 N	Max 122.199 S
Trench 13	Min 120.133 E	Max 121.676 W	Min 119.738 E	Max 121.374 W
Trench 14	Min 118.723 NE	Max 120.145 SW	Min 118.232 NE	Max 119.937 SW
Trench 15	Min 118.304 NE	Max 119.562 SW	Min 117.604 NE	Max 119.281 SW
Trench 16	Min 117.896 N	Max 118.955 S	Min 117.406 N	Max 118.595 S
Trench 17	Min 118.669 NE	Max 120.379 SW	Min 118.532 NE	Max 120.003 SW
Trench 18	Min 121.596 NW	Max 122.045 SE	Min 121.432 NW	Max 121.920 SE
Trench 19	Min 122.054 S	Max 122.264 N	Min 121.704 S	Max 122.127 N

Trench 20	Min 119.793 NW	Max 121.086 SE	Min 119.271 NW	Max 120.514 SE
Trench 21	Min 119.852 N	Max 125.153 S	Min 120.376 N	Max 124.574 S
Trench 22	Min 129.680 E	Max 131.192 W	Min 129.421 E	Max 130.979 W
Trench 23	Min 130.270 E	Max 131.45 W	Min 130.045 E	Max 131.198 W
Trench 24	Min 131.135 S	Max 131.361 N	Min 130.825 S	Max 130.965 N

5.3 Stratigraphic Sequence

5.3.1 The stratigraphic sequence was somewhat consistent among all of the trenches, with some variances. All trenches contained a topsoil. This resided over a subsoil or a colluvium that was observed in only certain trenches. The subsoil or colluvium then resided over the natural geology. These mostly matched with the expected natural geology outlined in the Geology Viewer for the British Geological Survey (BGS 2025). For further information on these deposits see Appendix A.

5.3.2 The natural geology was somewhat consistent across the Site. The natural geology for the trenches to the north comprised a light yellowish brown silty clay with rare small to large angular limestone inclusions. The natural geology for the trenches to the south comprised a light orangey brown silty clay with rare small to large angular limestone inclusions.

5.3.3 Subsoil was present in trenches, 8, 12 – 15, 19 – 21 and was consistent within those trenches. It comprised a light orangey brown silty clay with rare small to large angular limestone inclusions. The subsoil ranged from 0.10 to 0.30 m in thickness across all trenches.

5.3.4 The topsoil was consistent within every trench. It comprised a mid greyish brown silt clay with rare small to large angular limestone inclusions. The topsoil ranged from 0.08 to 0.35 m in thickness across all trenches.

5.4 Archaeological Results

5.4.1 Of the twenty-four trenches, archaeological features were observed in two trenches across the Site. This does not include four trenches that observed the possible paleochannels / alluvium (Trenches 12, 14, 15, and 16) where Appendix A outlines further details. The paleochannels / alluvium deposits were not hand investigated during the trench evaluation due to existing at a depth below the impact of the proposed development.

5.4.2 The archaeological features were investigated by hand excavation and subsequently recorded according to the outlined methodology above. For further information on these features see Appendix A.

5.4.3 Trenches 1 – 18, 20, 22 – 24 did not contain any archaeological features or deposits and will not be discussed further. Summary descriptions of the deposits in these trenches are provided in Appendix A.

Trench Results

Trench 19

5.4.4 Trench 19 was located in the centre of the Site (F6 in the WSI), and was orientated from north to south. The trench contained one ditch and two gullies that somewhat matched a result from the geophysical survey. The trench had to be shortened at its southern end because of the presence of a protected hedgerow.

5.4.5 The natural geology 1903 was found at a maximum depth of 0.57 m below the modern ground surface.

5.4.6 Ditch 1904 was located in the southern part of the trench. It measured 0.50 m wide and 0.22 m in depth and continued east and west beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 1904 contained one secondary fill (1905) that comprised a light yellowish brown silty clay with rare small to large angular limestone inclusions. No finds were recovered from the ditch. The fill was sampled for environmental purposes.

5.4.7 Gully 1906 was located in the southern part of the trench and is a possible wheel rut for a trackway in conjunction with gully 1908. It measured 0.34 m wide and 0.12 m in depth and continued east and west beyond the limits of the trench. Gully 1906 contained one primary/packing fill (1907) that comprised a light orangey brown silty clay with frequent medium to large angular limestone inclusions concentrated at the base of the fill, possibly as a result of packing. No finds were recovered from the gully.

5.4.8 Gully 1908 was located in the southern part of the trench and is a possible wheel rut for a trackway in conjunction with gully 1906. It measured 0.60 m wide and 0.13 m in depth and continued east and west beyond the limits of the trench. Gully 1908 contained one primary/packing fill (1909) that comprised a light orangey brown silty clay with frequent medium to large angular limestone inclusions concentrated at the base of the fill, possibly as a result of packing. Fragments of CBM, Animal bone, and shell were recovered from the fill.

Trench 21

5.4.9 Trench 21 was located in the southern part of the Site (F7 in the WSI), and was orientated from north to south. The trench contained one ditch that somewhat matched a result from the geophysical survey. The trench also contained a land drain that was recorded as feature 2104.

5.4.10 The natural geology 2103 was found at a maximum depth of 0.51 below the modern ground surface.

5.4.11 Ditch 2106 was located in the centre of the trench. It measured 0.80 m in diameter and 0.33 m in depth and continued northwest and south east beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 2106 contained one secondary fill (2107) that comprised a light yellowish brown silty clay with rare small to large angular limestone inclusions. Some fragments of animal bone , a prehistoric worked flint and a small fragment of post-medieval glass were recovered from the fill.

6. Conclusions

6.1.1 The archaeological works fulfilled the aims and objectives set out in the WSI produced by AECOM (2025b) and the Method Statement produced by Cura Terrae Ltd (2025).

6.1.2 The results of the archaeological evaluation did mostly conform to the results of the geophysical survey where expected archaeology matched the results of the trench. Possible archaeological features from the geophysical survey were not observed by the trench evaluation results, except for in Trench 21.

6.1.3 The two gullies 1906 and 1908 identified in trench 19 appear to be wheel ruts for a former Roman trackway that continues west towards the Roman settlement within the same field of the Site. The gullies have been interpreted as a trackway due to the nature of the fills demonstrating some form of packing at the base of the features as well as being located 1.20 m apart which is roughly the average width for Roman cart wheels.

6.1.4 To the north and running parallel to the trackway is ditch 1906. The purpose of this ditch was likely to help with drainage of the trackway and according to the geophysical survey appears to continue all the way to the Romano-British settlement to the west of Trench 19.

6.1.5 The ditch observed in trench 21 (2106) has an unclear function, but likely played a role in a wider field system possibly in relation to the Romano-British activity to the west of the trench. The small size of the glass fragment may have been intrusive.

6.1.6 The finds assemblage was associated with food storage (glass bottle), preparation (pottery), and possible consumption (knife) during the post-medieval to modern period. Animal bone and CBM were also present. A high proportion of the finds were recovered from topsoil or subsoil layers. Moreover, the entire assemblage was minimal and fragmentary, likely being residual and associated with the wider area rather than the immediate Site or features. The material was probably redistributed through ploughing or similar agricultural activities undertaken at and around the Site, during the post-medieval to modern period.

6.1.7 The environmental sample of ditch 1904 was dominated by modern rootlets, charcoal flecks too small to identify and terrestrial mollusca. This sample produced nothing with the potential to provide useful information.

6.1.8 Trenches 12, 14, 15, and 16 also revealed the presence of a paleochannel that exists within the field F6 which runs on an east by west alignment, north east of the Romano-British settlement observed in the results of the geophysical survey. The paleochannels were not hand investigated during the trench evaluation due to existing at a depth below the impact of the proposed development.

6.1.9 The archaeological evaluation was also successful in gaining a better understanding of the varied natural geology of the Site which mostly conformed with the British Geological Survey (BGS 2025).

7. Archive

7.1 Physical Archive

7.1.1 The archive will be deposited with the Corinium Museum in Cirencester, within six months of the completion of fieldwork, subject to any additional stages of archaeological mitigation.

7.1.2 The archive will be prepared to an acceptable standard following national guidelines (CIfA 2020b; Historic England 2015b) and those of the Corinium Museum (Gloucestershire Archaeological Archive Standards 2018).

7.1.3 A digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data arising from the archaeological works in accordance with industry standards (CIfA 2020b).

7.2 Digital Archive

7.2.1 The digital archive is currently stored at Cura Terrae' Basingstoke office under project number 25576.

7.2.2 A digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and made publicly accessible. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, which may be accessed through the ADS website (ADS 2011 and 2022).

7.2.3 An OASIS form has been created and copy of the final, approved version of this report will be uploaded to the ADS via the OASIS form.

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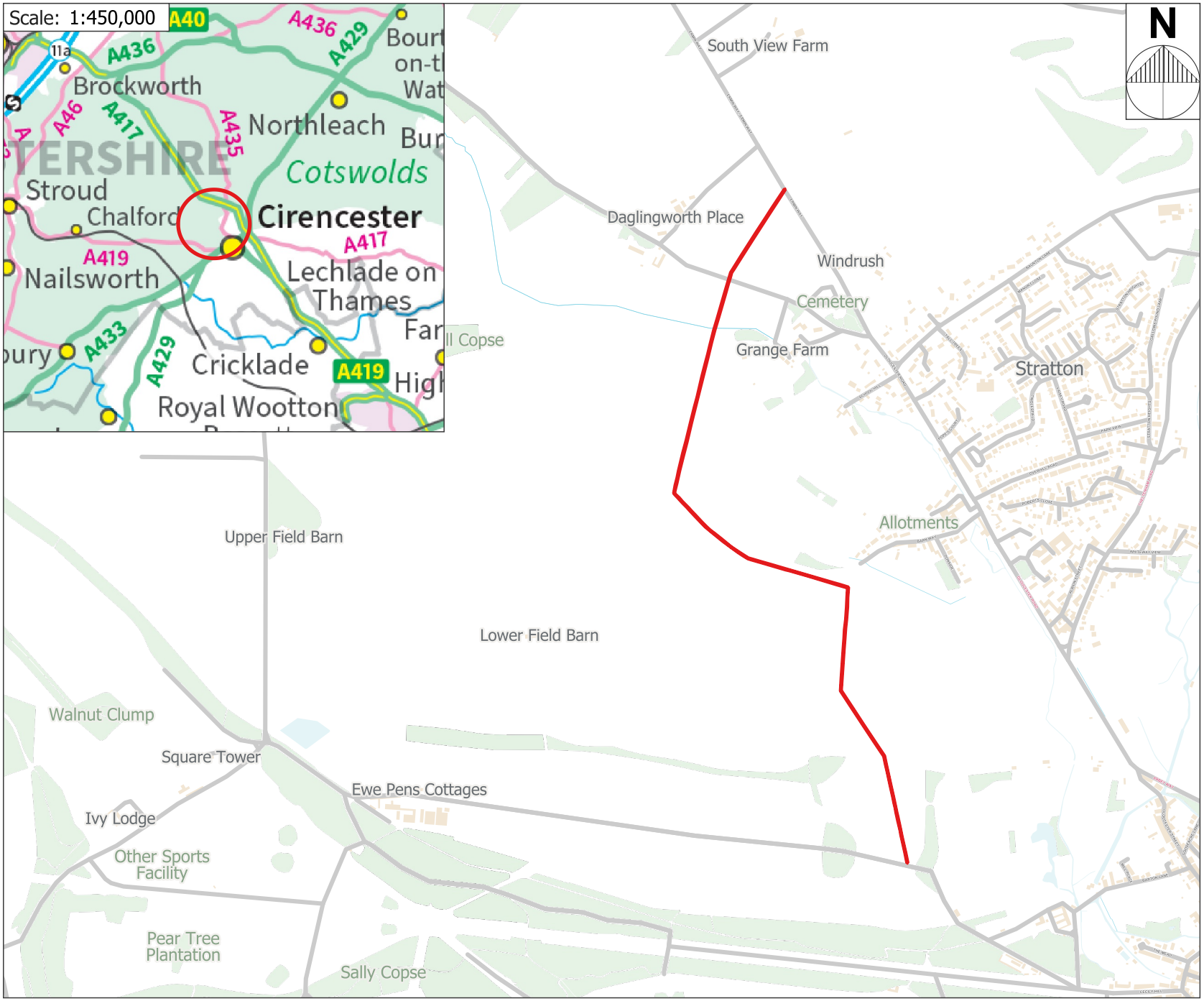
Figures and Plates



CuraTerrae

Key

Site

0 100 200 300 400 500 m

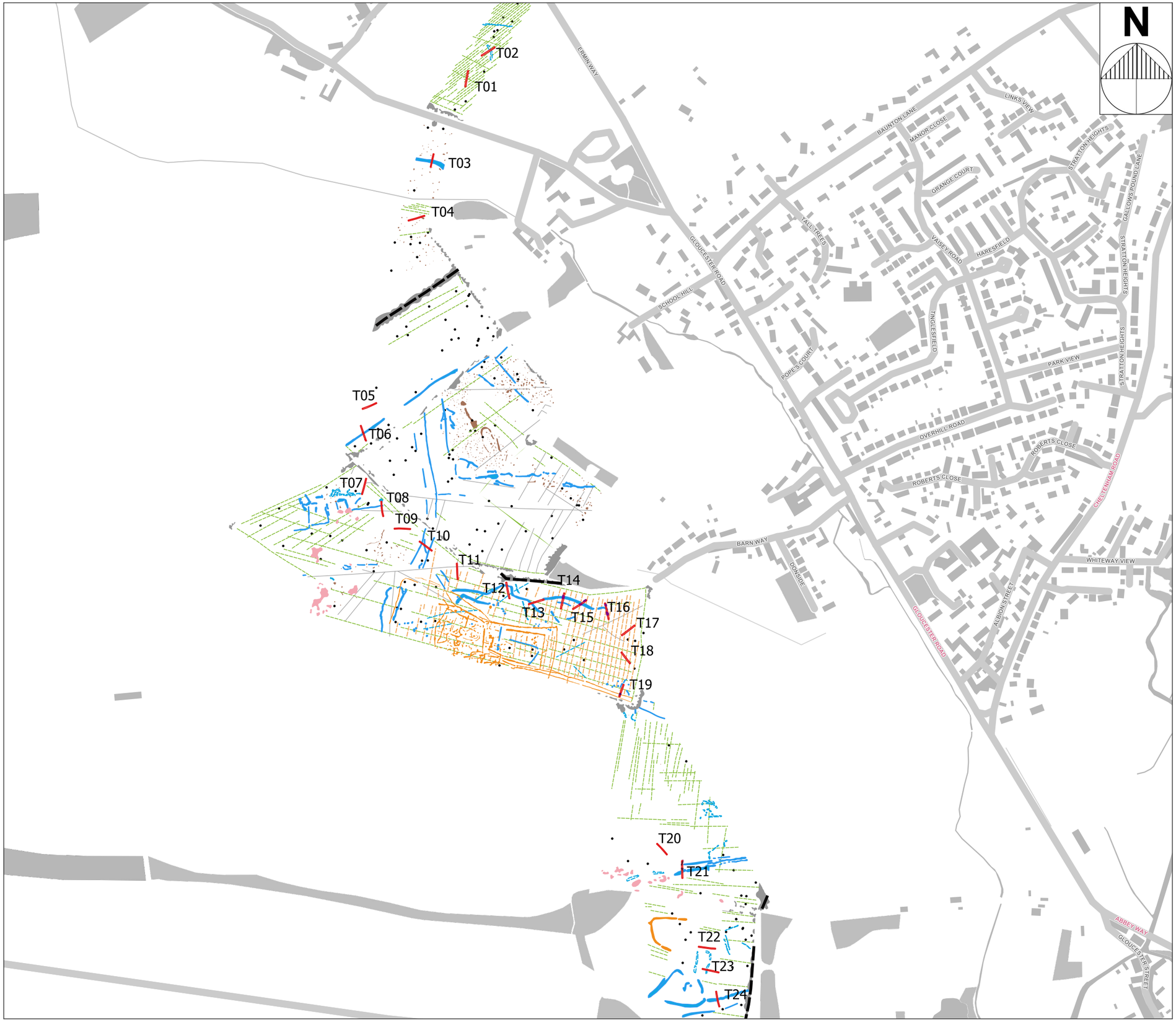
M Group Water (Network Infrastructure) Ltd.
Chesterton Farm, Cirencester

Figure 1
Site Location

A	03.10.25	PFP	-
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by

Site centred on:	SP 00800 03348

October 2025 | Scale: 1:15,000 @A4 | Drg.Ref: 25576 - ARC - 1 - A



Key

- Trench
- Archaeological feature

Geophysics

- Archaeology
- Possible Archaeology
- Former Boundary
- Quarry
- Uncertain Trend
- Ridge & Furrow
- Agricultural Trend
- Land Drain
- Service
- Ferrous spike
- Increased Magnetic Response
- Geology

0 90 180 270 360 450 m

M Group Water (Network Infrastructure) Ltd.
Chesterton Farm, Cirencester
Figure 2
Trench results

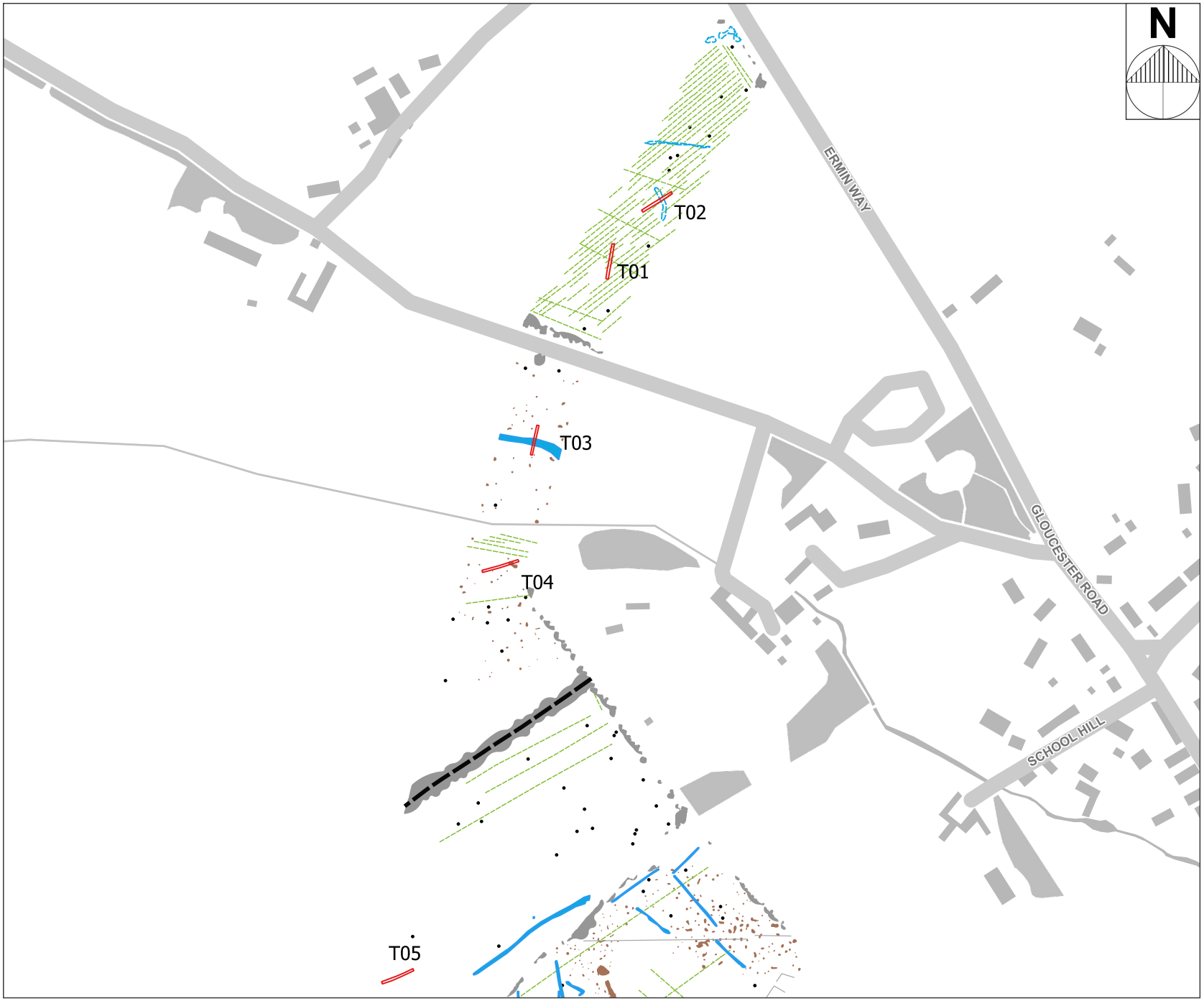
A	25.11.2025	DP	
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by

Site centred on:	SP 00800 03348

November 2025

Scale: 1:6,500 @A3

Drg.Ref: 25576 - ARC - 2 - A



CuraTerrae

Key

- Trench

Geophysics

- Possible Archaeology
- Uncertain Trend
- Agricultural Trend
- Land Drain
- Service
- Ferrous spike
- Increased Magnetic Response
- Geology

0 40 80 120 160 200 m

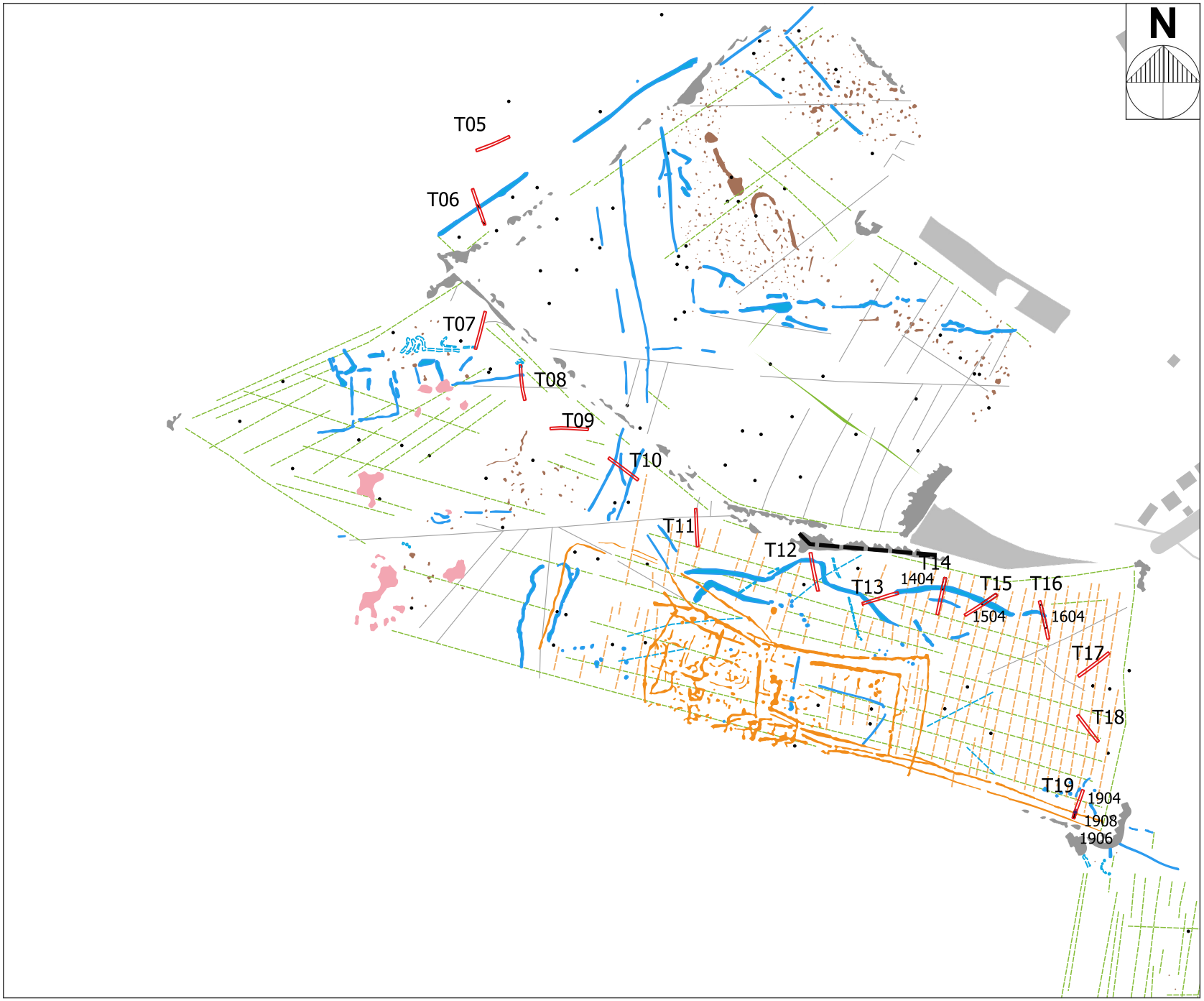
M Group Water (Network Infrastructure) Ltd.
Chesterton Farm, Cirencester

Figure 3
Trench results (North)

A	25.11.25	DP	-
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by

Site centred on:	SP 00800 03348

November 2025 | Scale: 1:4,250 @A4 | Drg.Ref: 25576 - ARC - 3 - A



CuraTerrae

Key

- Trench
- Archaeological feature

Geophysics

- Archaeology
- Possible Archaeology
- Former Boundary
- Quarry
- Uncertain Trend
- Ridge & Furrow
- Agricultural Trend
- Land Drain
- Increased Magnetic Response
- Geology

0 40 80 120 160 200 m

M Group Water (Network Infrastructure) Ltd.
Chesterton Farm, Cirencester

Figure 4
Trench results (Centre)

A	25.11.25	DP	-
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by

Site centred on:	SP 00800 03348

November 2025 | Scale: 1:4,000 @A4 | Drg.Ref: 25576 - ARC - 4 - A

CuraTerrae

Key

- Trench
- Archaeological feature

Geophysics

- Archaeology
- Possible Archaeology
- Quarry
- Uncertain Trend
- Ridge & Furrow
- Agricultural Trend
- Land Drain
- Service
- Ferrous spike
- Increased Magnetic Response
- Geology

0 40 80 120 160 200 m

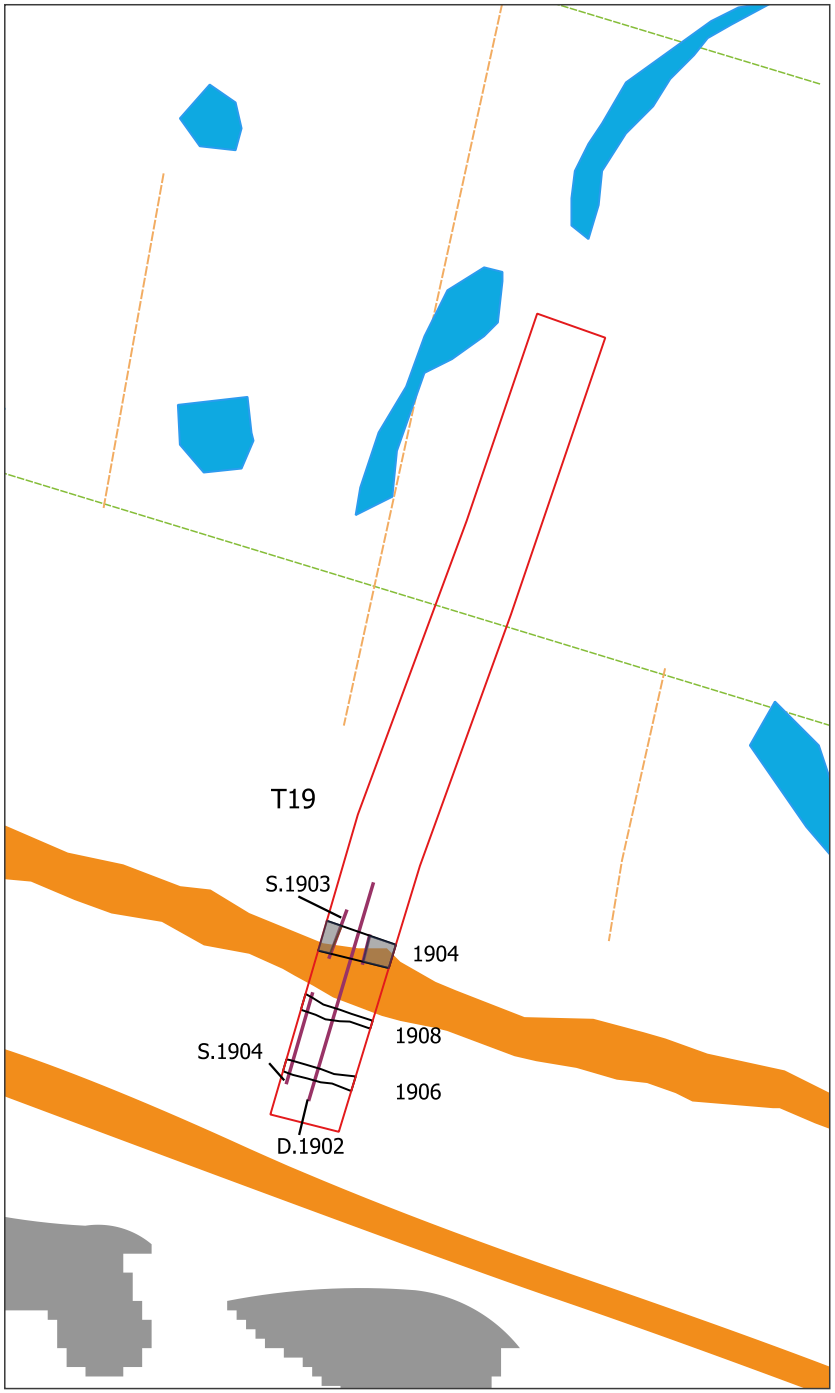
M Group Water (Network Infrastructure) Ltd.
Chesterton Farm, Cirencester

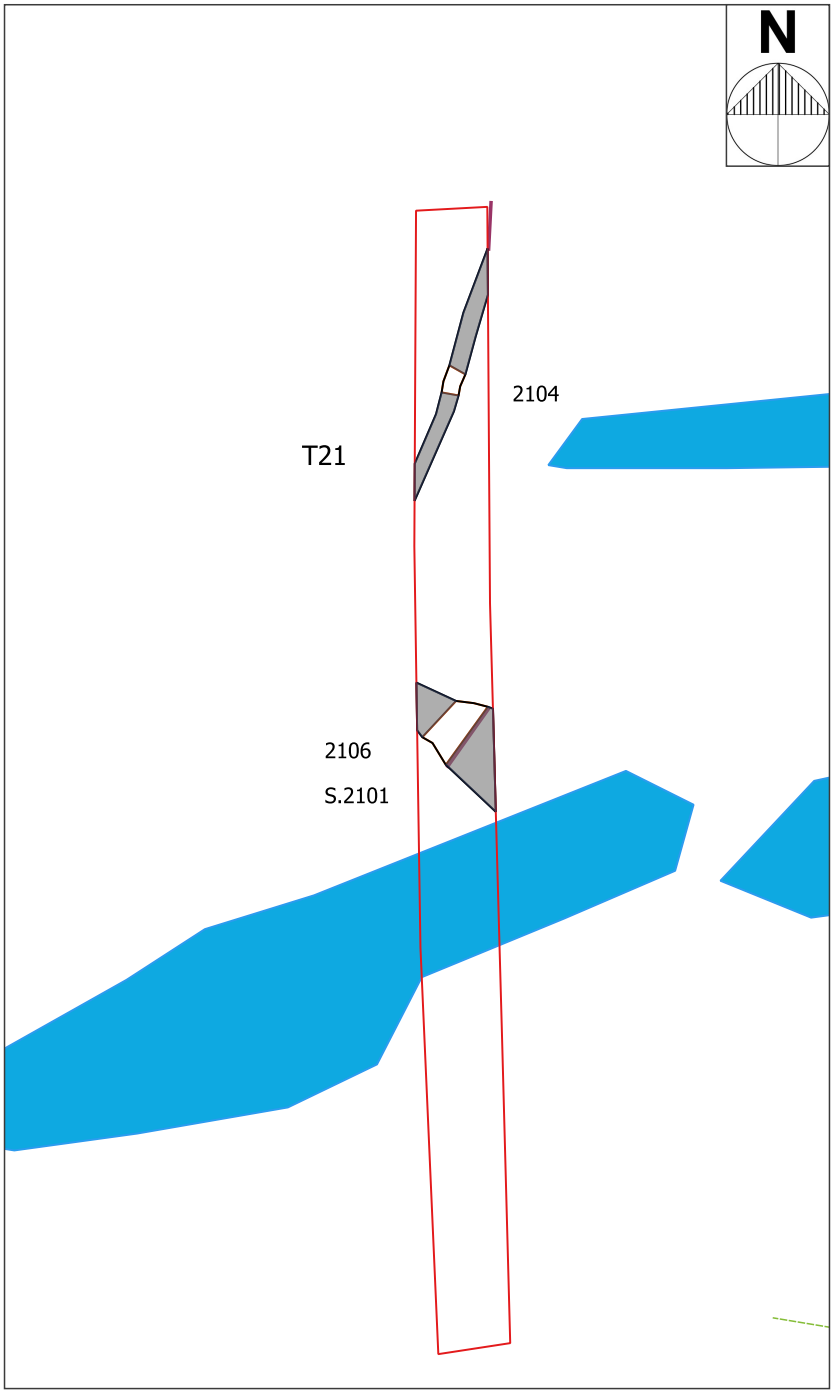
Figure 5
Trench results (South)

A	25.11.25	DP	-
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by

Site centred on:	SP 00800 03348

November 2025 | Scale: 1:4,250 @A4 | Drg.Ref: 25576 - ARC - 5 - A





CuraTerrae

Key

- Trench
- Archaeological feature
- Section

Geophysics

- Archaeology
- Possible Archaeology
- Ridge & Furrow
- Agricultural Trend
- Increased Magnetic Response

0 2 4 6 8 10 m

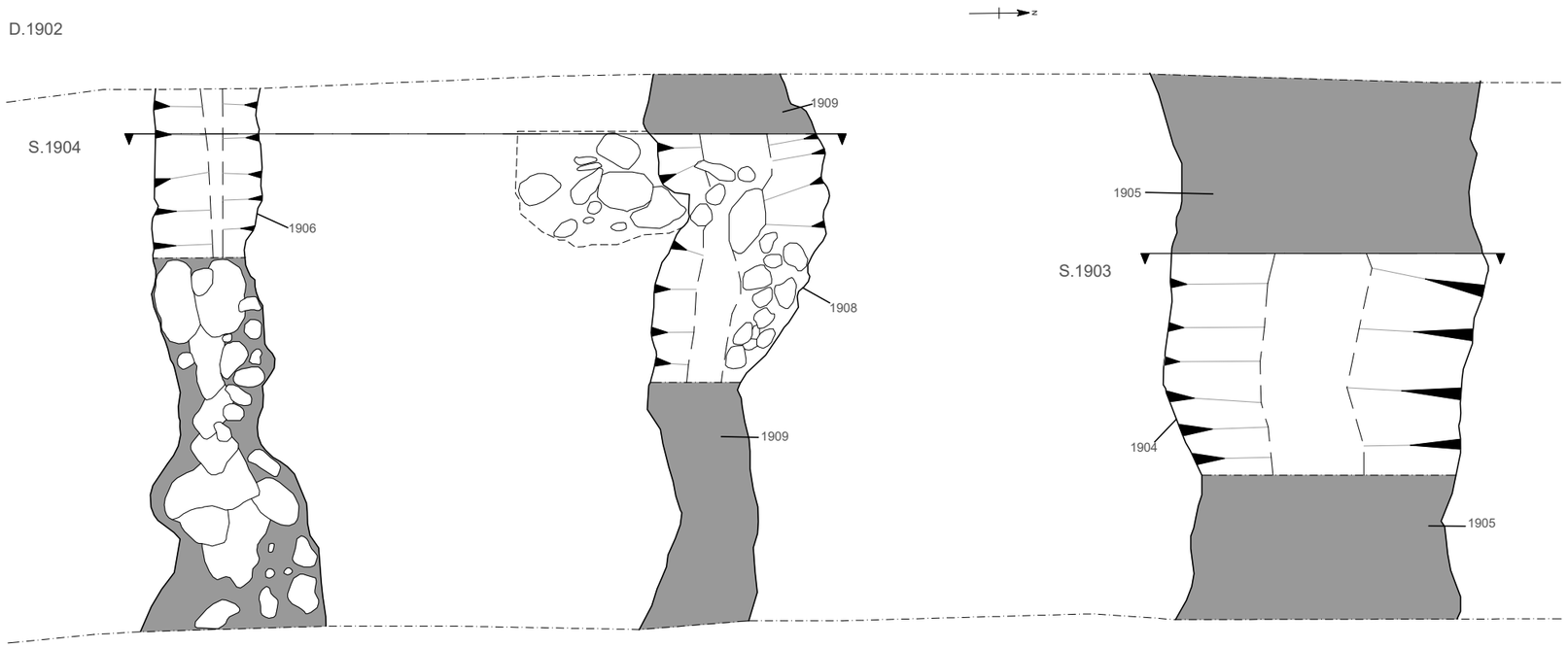
M Group Water (Network Infrastructure) Ltd.
Chesterton Farm, Cirencester

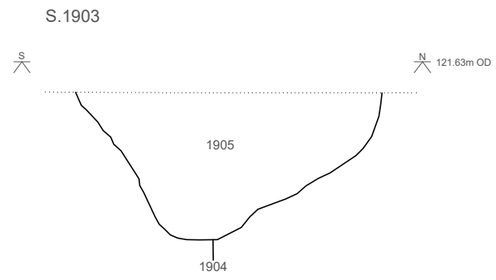
Figure 6
Trench 19 and 21

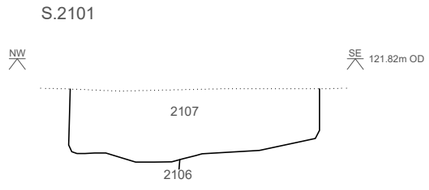
A	25.11.25	DP	-
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by

Site centred on:	SP 00800 03348

November 2025 | Scale: 1:200 @A4 | Drg.Ref: 25576 - ARC - 6 - A







KEY

Stone

0 1m

scale 1:20 @ A3

Chesterton Farm, Cirencester: Plan 1902 and sections 1903, 1904 and 2101. Figure 7

Trench 1, looking north

Plate 1

Trench 10, looking west

Plate 2

Trench 23, looking southwest

Plate 3

Trench 3 representative section, looking west

Plate 4

Trench 9 representative section, looking northeast

Plate 5

Trench 20 representative section, looking north east

Plate 6

Ditch 1904, looking west

Plate 7

Gullies 1906 and 1908, looking west

Plate 8

Possible trackway 1904, 1906, 1908, looking north

Plate 9

Ditch 2106, looking southeast

Plate 10

Appendix A: Context Summary

Table 2: Context Descriptions

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Provisional Date	Bulk finds	Vertical Span (m)
101	1	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.22 (avg.)
102	1	Deposit			Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	
201	2	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.20 (avg.)
202	2	Deposit			Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	
301	3	Deposit			Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: clayey silt.	Topsoil			None	0.30 to 0.20
302	3	Deposit			Colour: orangey brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty clay.	Colluvium	Colluvial material formed by slope to north		None	0.30 to 0.60
303	3	Deposit			Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clayey silt.	Colluvium			None	0.70 (avg.)
304	3	Deposit			Colour: light reddish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: frequent small to large sub-angular to sub-rounded platy limestone, concentrated intermittent bands.	Natural geology			-	
401	4	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay.	Topsoil			Pot (2), CBM (2)	0.30 (avg.)
402	4	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large rounded platy limestone, concentrated outcrops along the trench.	Natural geology			-	
501	5	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: wet, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.25 (avg.)
502	5	Deposit			Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: wet, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	
601	6	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: wet, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone.	Topsoil			None	0.28 (avg.)
602	6	Deposit			Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: wet, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Provisional Date	Bulk finds	Vertical Span (m)
701	7	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.20 (avg.)
702	7	Deposit			Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	
801	8	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.33 (avg.)
802	8	Deposit			Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Subsoil			None	0.80 (avg.)
803	8	Deposit			Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	
901	9	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.30 (avg.)
902	9	Deposit			Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	
1001	10	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: clayey loam.	Topsoil	Post-medieval Iron object found in the topsoil		Metal (1)	0.30 (avg.)
1002	10	Deposit			Colour: mid yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: 1) frequent small to large rounded platy limestone, evenly distributed 2) medium to large orange brown clay lenses, concentrated patches.	Natural geology			-	
1101	11	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: clayey loam.	Topsoil			None	0.30 (avg.)
1102	11	Deposit			Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: 1) moderate very large orangey brown clay, concentrated at north end of the trench 2) occasional small to large rounded platy limestone, concentrated isolated outcrop 3) inclusion. Notes: orangey alluvium boundary less distinct than to the east.	Natural geology			-	
1201	12	Deposit			Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: clayey loam.	Topsoil			None	0.30 (avg.)
1202	12	Deposit			Colour: mid orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: clay. Notes: restricted to north end of the trench mainly over 1205.	Subsoil			None	0.00 to 0.10

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Provisional Date	Bulk finds	Vertical Span (m)
1203	12	Deposit			Colour: mid yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: 1) moderate medium to very large orange brown clay mottles 2) moderate small to large sub-rounded platy limestone.	Natural geology			-	
1204	12	Cut	Paleochannel or alluvium	1204	Shape in plan: not defined.	Possible paleochannel channel	Possible paleochannel channel that could also be an alluvial deposit. Would require further investigation to be sure.	Unknown	-	Unknown
1205	12	Fill	Paleochannel or alluvium	1204	Colour: dark orangey brown. Compaction: moist, plastic. Composition: clay. Notes: not excavated.	Fill of paleochannel or alluvial deposit	Unexcavated fill	Unknown	None	Unknown
1301	13	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.15 (avg.)
1302	13	Deposit			Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Subsoil			None	0.29 (avg.)
1303	13	Deposit			Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: 1) rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed 2) rare large angular spheroidal greyish brown clay towards sw, evenly distributed 3) rare large angular spheroidal greenish clay towards ne, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	
1401	14	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.30 (avg.)
1402	14	Deposit			Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Subsoil			None	0.10 (avg.)
1403	14	Deposit			Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist. Composition: clay.	Natural geology			-	
1404	14	Cut	Paleochannel	1404	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: northern edge of a probable channel. Notes: not excavated.	Possible paleochannel	Probably a paleochannel, similar/same as the ones seen in other trenches.	Unknown.	-	0.2
1405	14	Fill	Paleochannel		Colour: dark orangey brown. Compaction: moist, plastic. Composition: clay.	Silting of a paleochannel	Probable silting of a paleochannel.	Unknown.	None	0.2
1501	15	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.30 (avg.)
1502	15	Deposit			Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Subsoil			None	0.30 (avg.)
1503	15	Deposit			Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.	Natural geology			-	
1504	15	Cut	Paleochannel	1504	Shape in plan: northern edge of a probable channel. Notes: not excavated.	Possible paleochannel	Possible paleochannel, similar/same as the ones seen in the other nearby trenches.	Unknown.	-	0.2

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Provisional Date	Bulk finds	Vertical Span (m)
1505	15	Fill	Paleochannel		Colour: dark orangey brown. Compaction: moist, plastic. Composition: clay.	Silting of a paleochannel	Probable silting of a paleochannel	Unknown.	None	0.2
1601	16	Deposit			Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: clayey loam.	Topsoil			None	0.33 (avg.)
1602	16	Deposit			Colour: mid orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: becomes deeper to north.	Possible colluvium			None	0.20 to 0.40
1603	16	Deposit			Colour: light greyish yellow. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium rounded platy limestone, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	
1604	16	Cut	Paleochannel	1604	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: southern edge of a probable channel. Notes: not excavated.	Probable paleochannel	Probably a paleochannel, similar to the one seen in the other trenches.	Unknown	-	0.2
1605	16	Fill	Paleochannel	1604	Colour: dark orangey brown. Compaction: moist, plastic. Composition: clay.	Siltiing of paleochannel	Probable silting of a paleochannel	Unknown	None	0.2
1701	17	Deposit			Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, very loose. Composition: silty loam.	Topsoil			None	0.00 to 0.08
1702	17	Deposit			Colour: light greenish grey. Compaction: moist, plastic. Composition: silty clay.	Natural geology			-	
1801	18	Deposit			Colour: light blackish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.20 (avg.)
1802	18	Deposit			Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	
1901	19	Deposit			Colour: light blackish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.30 (avg.)
1902	19	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Subsoil			None	0.20 (avg.)
1903	19	Deposit			Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	
1904	19	Cut	Ditch	1904	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: flat. Sides: moderate, convex.	Ditch	Cut for a ditch north of the possible trackway [1906] + [1908]. Likely used for drainage next to the trackway.	Unknown.	-	0.22
1905	19	Fill	Ditch	1904	Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Secondary fill	Single fill of cut [1904]. Natural silting gradually over time.	Unknown.	None	0.22

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Provisional Date	Bulk finds	Vertical Span (m)
1906	19	Cut	Gully	1906	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: steep, concave.	Wheel rut	This feature is the southernmost of two gullies running E-W in the southern end of trench 19. Its identification as a wheel rut is based on the fact that this gully and its probable counterpart [1908] are located 1.20m apart, which is roughly the average width of roman cart wheels, both gullies run parallel to ditch [1904], all of these separate features when taken as a group imply a trackway.	Romano-British (43 to 410)	-	0.12
1907	19	Fill	Gully	1906	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: frequent medium to large sub-angular to sub-rounded platy limestone, concentrated packing in base of fill.	Primary fill/packing	There are packing stones in the base of this fill are clustered together in an arrangement that seems deliberate, it is possible that this was to shore up the road, or they are the result of the pressure from wheels which formed the ruts. The fill itself differs only slightly from the natural in colour and texture which indicates that the soil formed soon after its initial excavation.	Romano-British (43 to 410).	None	0.12
1908	19	Cut	Gully	1908	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: irregular, linear. Shape in profile: u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	Wheel rut	The northernmost gully in the south end of trench 19. The feature represents the wheel ruts from the centre of possible trackway running along the southern boundary of site.	Romano-British (43 to 410).	-	0.13
1909	19	Fill	Gully	1908	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: frequent medium to large sub-angular to sub-rounded platy limestone, concentrated packing in base of fill.	Primary fill/packing	This fill is similar in colour and texture to the natural and seems to have formed soon after the feature was initially cut. There are stones in the base of the fill which may represent deliberate packing or could be the result of the pressure from cartwheels.	Romano-British (43 to 410).	Bone (1), CBM (3), Snail shells (6)	0.13
2001	20	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.	Topsoil			None	0.20 (avg.)
2002	20	Deposit			Colour: mid orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small rounded platy limestone, evenly distributed.	Colluvium			None	0.10 to 0.30
2003	20	Deposit			Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: 1) moderate orange brown clay, concentrated small lenses to S. dominant n 2) frequent small to large rounded platy limestone, concentrated most frequent to N.	Natural geology			-	
2101	21	Deposit			Colour: light blackish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.20 (avg.)
2102	21	Deposit			Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed.	Subsoil	Undated CBM found.		CBM	0.30 (avg.)
2103	21	Deposit			Colour: orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed. Notes: different colours of natural geology.	Natural geology			-	
2104	21	Cut	Field drain	2104	Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: irregular, shallow. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	Field drain	Undated field drain	Unknown.	-	0.12

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Provisional Date	Bulk finds	Vertical Span (m)
2105	21	Fill	Field drain	2104	Colour: bright orangey brown. Compaction: moist, very loose. Composition: sandy clay. Inclusions: frequent small to large sub-angular to sub-rounded platy limestone, evenly distributed.	Deliberate backfill	The backfill of an undated field drain.	Unknown.	None	0.12
2106	21	Cut	Ditch	2106	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: flat. Sides: moderate, convex.	Ditch	Ditch located in the centre of the trench. Continues north west and south east. Unclear purpose but likely drainage as part of a wider field system.	Post-Medieval (1485 – 1901).	-	0.33
2107	21	Fill	Ditch	2106	Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: 1) rare small to large angular spheroidal lime stones, evenly distributed 2) rare small to medium elongate bones, evenly distributed.	Secondary fill	Single fill of cut [2106]. Natural silting gradually over time. Fragile animal bones recovered, worked flint, and a fragment of post-medieval glass.	Post-Medieval (1485 – 1901).	Bone	0.33
2201	22	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.30 (avg.)
2202	22	Deposit			Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	
2301	23	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.30 (avg.)
2302	23	Deposit			Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	
2401	24	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Topsoil			None	0.35 (avg.)
2402	24	Deposit			Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to large angular spheroidal limestone, evenly distributed.	Natural geology			-	

Appendix B: Finds Assessment

Charlotte Britton

Introduction

This report presents an assessment of the finds recovered (excluding the environmental material) from an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Chesterton Water Main, Chesterton Farm, Stratton (NGR: 400768, 203255). The evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a water pipeline at the Site (Aecom 2025, 1). Excavations recovered 39.8g of animal bone and 215.8g of artefactual material including ceramic building material (hereafter CBM), flint, glass, ferrous metalwork and pottery.

When chronologically diagnostic, the material dated to the possible prehistoric, and post-medieval to modern periods. The assessment includes a discussion of the findings in their regional and chronological context and recommendations for further work.

Methodology

The assessment was carried out on 5th December 2025. The material was recorded and assessed in accordance with national guidelines (Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group 2002; Baker and Worley 2019; Barclay et al. 2016; Butler 2005; CIfA 2020) and with reference to the South West England Archaeological Research Framework (2025).

The material was examined visually and was quantified by count and weight, with basic artefact types and dates recorded.

The animal bone was recorded by context with mammalian taxa identified to broad species. Colouration of bone was noted, and any evidence of butchery, carnivore/rodent gnawing, and burning were also documented.

CBM form classifications broadly follow those in McComish (2015).

Outline of the assemblage

The pottery assemblage dated to the possible prehistoric, and post-medieval to modern periods, with the CBM and animal bone being chronologically undiagnostic (Table 3). An archive catalogue of the material was produced in a pro forma excel spreadsheet for inclusion in the Site archive.

Table 3: Material recovered by context, with object type, period, count and weight.

Context	Material	Object type	Period	Count	Weight (g)
401	CBM	Undiagnostic	Unknown	2	103.1
	Pottery	Redware	Post-medieval	2	15.3
1001	Iron	Handle	Post-medieval?	1	13.8
1909	Animal bone	Medium/large mammal	Unknown	1	2.7
2102	CBM	Tile?	Unknown	1	72.2
2107	Animal bone	Medium/large mammal	Unknown	22	37.1
	Flint	Natural	N/A	1	2.4
		Worked?	Prehistoric?	1	7.9
	Glass	Vessel	Post-medieval-modern	1	1.1
			Total	32	255.6

Animal bone

An assemblage of 23 fragments (39.8g) of animal bone was recovered from gully fill 1909 and ditch fill 2107 that included solely mammal remains. The material was generally in poor condition and very fragmentary with all the examples showing extreme surface degradation. The colour of the bone was typically beige/light brown to dark brown. It was possible that soil conditions at the Site were not conducive to bone preservation, with the recovered surviving due to localised preservation conditions. Due to the fragmentation of the material, no diagnostic elements were present, resulting in the material not being ascribed to a particular species but instead being separated by broad animal type and size. The assemblage was solely representative of medium to large mammals.

CBM

An assemblage of three fragments (175.3g) of CBM were recovered from topsoil 401 and subsoil 2102. The material was heavily abraded and fragmentary, being representative of a possible tile and additional undiagnostic material. The fabrics identified were oxidised and sandy, containing sparse to frequent fine quartz and iron inclusions. The material was entirely chronologically undiagnostic.

Pottery

Two fragments (15.3g) of utilitarian pottery were recovered from topsoil 401 that dated to the post-medieval period. The material included glazed red earthenware (redware) produced between the 16th and 19th centuries and was representative of two individual vessels. Both sherds displayed glaze on the inside bodies, one being tan and one being mottled brown in colour. The ware was representative of material produced throughout the country during the period.

Glass

A single fragment (1.1g) of glass was recovered from ditch fill 2107. It was light green and translucent, showing light surface weathering, and originating from the rim of a thin, small vessel such as a bottle. It dated to the post-medieval period.

Ferrous metalwork

A single fragment (13.8g) of iron was recovered from topsoil 1001 that represented the handle from a knife, or similar artefact. Wood was adhered to the bolster/beginning of the blade, with a small copper-alloy rivet still *in situ* suggesting that the fragment derived from a small composite knife likely dating to the post-medieval period.

Flint

Two fragments (10.3g) of flint were recovered from ditch fill 2107, with one potentially being worked, in the form of a possible scraper or debitage. It was chronologically undiagnostic beyond being potentially suggestive of prehistoric activity. The second fragment represented natural, unmodified material.

Statement of potential

The finds assemblage was associated with possible activity during the prehistoric period, as well as food storage (glass bottle), preparation (pottery), and possible consumption (knife) during the post-medieval to modern period. Animal bone and CBM were also present.

A high proportion of the finds were recovered from topsoil or subsoil layers. Moreover, the entire assemblage was minimal and fragmentary, likely being residual and associated with the wider area rather than the immediate Site or features. The material was probably redistributed through ploughing or similar agricultural activities undertaken at and around the Site, during the post-medieval to modern period (Aecom 2025, 6-7).

Conclusions and recommendations

The finds recovered by the evaluation at Chesterton Water Main, Chesterton Farm, Stratton demonstrated possible prehistoric, and definite post-medieval to modern period activity around the Site. The material, however, was probably entirely residual. Further analysis of the material would therefore not helpfully contribute to our understanding of the Site, or research objectives or the agenda set out in the South West England Archaeological Research Framework (2025). No further work could be meaningfully undertaken on the material, and it may be discarded on completion of the project.

This report and associated data spreadsheet should be retained as part of the Site archive and integrated into any Site-wide grey literature or publication reporting.

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Appendix C: Environmental Assessment

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Introduction

One sample was taken during an evaluation by archaeologists from MGroup Ltd at land located approximately 1.3km north of the city of Cirencester, and adjacent to the west of the small settlement of Stratton, Gloucestershire, (hereafter "the Site") (Table 4). The National Grid co-ordinates are SP 00801 03701. This evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a water pipeline on agricultural land (all site information MGroup 2025).

The soil at this site is '*Soilscape 3: Shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone*' (Hallett *et al.* 2017). In these soils one would normally find charred, and mineral replaced plant macro-remains (Campbell *et al.* 2011, 5).

82 archaeological investigations were carried out withing 1km of the site that revealed Neolithic to Post-Medieval activity (MGroup 2025, 2-7). No archaeobotanical reports were found while searching the Archaeology Data Service for this report.

This report will assess the significance and potential of these archaeobotanical remains and make recommendations about further work and radiocarbon dating.

Methodology

Sampling and processing were carried out by Cura Terrae Ltd archaeologists. The sample was 32 litres in size.

The samples were assessed using the standard methodology outlined in the Historic England Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (Campbell *et al.* 2011). Each flot was fully scanned under a stereomicroscope with magnification of 10-45x.

At assessment level the abundance of plant macro-remains is estimated unless the number of items is few (less than ten) when they are counted. The diversity of plant taxon types is also estimated. Level of preservation of plant macro-remains is given as identifiable to family, genus or species. Faunal remains seen in the flots are noted in general terms with only abundance noted. This is not a zooarchaeological report but the presence of terrestrial, freshwater or marine mollusca has been commented on if present.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006 and 2023; Jacomet 2006). At assessment level full identifications are only made of significant plant macro-remains. Where given the nomenclature for the plant macro-remains follows Stace (Stace 2010). Scientific names are used once and English common names thereafter. English common names are used in the table for clarity.

Quantities were estimated in the following way: -

Codes for abundance, diversity and level of preservation as used in the tables.

Abundance

1 = 'Low' = <10

2='Moderate' = 10-100

3= 'Abundant' =>100

Diversity

1='Low'= <3 taxon types

2='Moderate' = 3 to 10 taxon types

3='High'= >10 taxon types

Preservation

1 = Identifiable to family

2 = Identifiable to genus

3 = Identifiable to species

Outline of the assemblage

Table 4: Data table

Sample Code	Cut	Fill	Provisional feature description	Provisional date	Processed Volume (Litres)	Sampling and Processing Comments
1901	Ditch [1904]	1905	Secondary Fill	Undated	32	None

Statement of potential

This sample was dominated by modern rootlets, charcoal flecks too small to identify and terrestrial mollusca. This sample produced nothing with the potential to provide useful information.

Conclusions and recommendations

No further work is recommended on this sample. Further work at this site should include bulk soil sampling incase anything has survived.

References

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Appendix C: OASIS form

OASIS ID (UID)	curaterr1-538722
Project Name	Evaluation at Chesterton Water Main, Chesterton Farm
Sitename	Chesterton Water Main, Chesterton Farm
Sitecode	25576
Project Identifier(s)	
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Cura Terrae
Project Dates	13-Oct-2025 - 30-Oct-2025
Location	**Chesterton Water Main, Chesterton Farm** NGR: SP 00768 03255 LL: 51.728011550893726, -1.99028084126306 12 Fig: 400768,203255
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Gloucestershire Local Authority District: Cotswold Parish: Cirencester

Project Methodology	Cura Terrae was appointed by the MGroup Ltd (the 'Principal Contractor') to undertake the archaeological trial trench evaluation works for the proposed water pipeline connecting existing services in Gloucester Road, just north of Stratton, Gloucestershire to existing services located in the footprint of a trackway to the east of Ewe Pens Farm. 24 archaeology trial trenches were excavated along the route of the water pipeline.
Project Results	Trench 19 identified what appears to be a Romano-British trackway with an accompanying ditch to the north of the trackway. The trackway matches results from the geophysical survey and continues west towards the Roman settlement within the same field of the Site. The two gullies of the trackway are 1.20 m apart which is roughly the average width for Roman cart wheels, with the ditch to the north likely used to help with drainage of the trackway. Trench 21 observed a ditch with an unclear purpose but may have been part of a wider field system in relation to the Romano-British settlement to the west. The rest of the trenches were blank.
Keywords	Trackway - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation MGroup Ltd
HER	
Person Responsible for work	Oliver Good
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

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