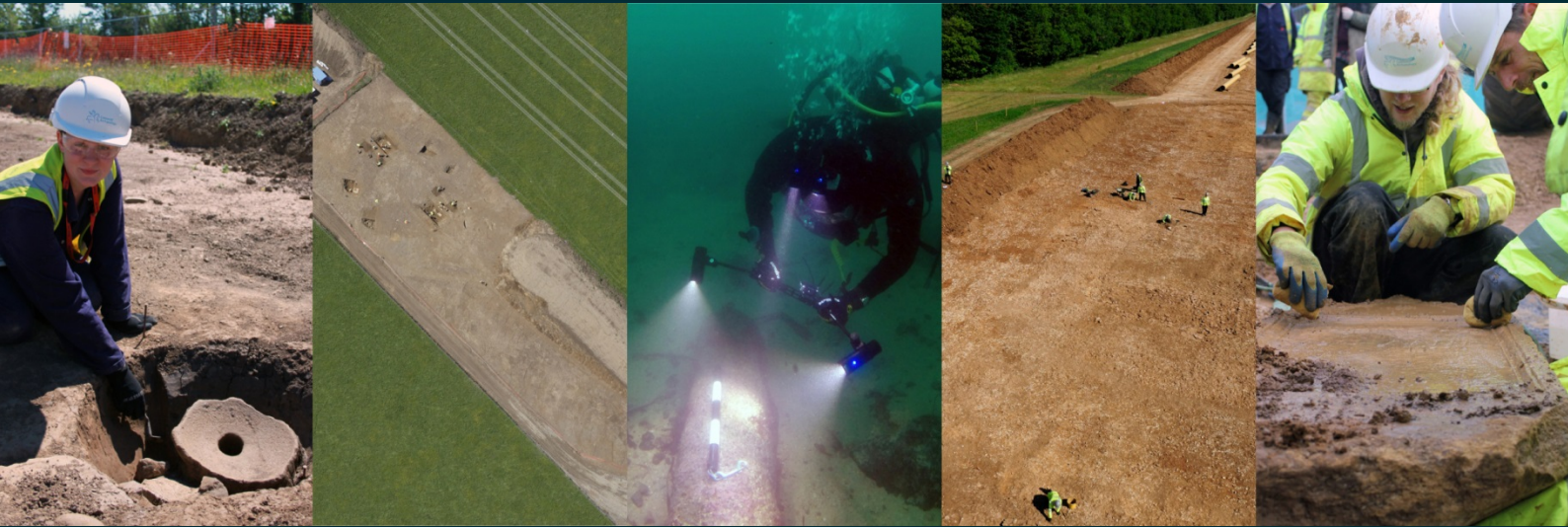


Land at Westbury Sailing Lake Phase 2 Station Road, Westbury Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Square Bay (Westbury) LLP

CA Project: 5791
CA Report: 16117

April 2016



Land at Westbury Sailing Lake Phase 2 Station Road, Westbury Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5791
CA Report: 16117



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A	2 March 2016	Peter Busby	Simon Cox	Internal review	Client approval	CMB
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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Westbury Sailing Lake, Phase 2
Location:	Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire
NGR:	ST 8610 5140
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	22-26 February 2016
Planning Reference:	15/12551/OUT
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum
Site Code:	WEST 16

A second phase of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2016 at land next to Westbury Sailing Lake, Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire. Eighteen trenches were excavated.

Two undated ditches and a pit were identified in the western part of the site, along with a later, but undated, north-west/south-east orientated field boundary ditch and associated series of furrows. A possible 19th or 20th-century drain was identified in the central area of the site. No artefacts pre-dating the 19th-century were identified, and none recovered, during the course of the evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a second phase of archaeological evaluation for Square Bay (Westbury) LLP at land next to Westbury Sailing Lake, Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire, (centred at NGR ST 8610 5140; Fig. 1).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken following an outline planning application (ref. 15/12551/OUT), submitted for the construction of up to 300 new residential properties, with associated green space and access. Pre-application consultation with Wiltshire County Council (WCC) regarding heritage aspects of the proposed development resulted in a request for an initial (Phase 1) archaeological evaluation of a ditch (possibly a hollow way) and possible building platform identified in the southern part of the development site through a desk-based heritage assessment (CA 2015a). The Phase 1 trial trench evaluation was completed in July 2015 (CA 2015b). The Phase 2 evaluation of the wider area was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015b) and approved by Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist, Archaeological Service, WCC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Rachel Foster, including a site visit on 24 February 2016.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 22.3ha, is located to the north-west of Westbury, Wiltshire, and comprises a parcel of agricultural land to the south of Westbury Railway Station. The site lies between two branches of the railway, which divide the site into two areas at their point of intersection. A boating lake adjacent to Station Road is located to the north-east, and the site is otherwise surrounded by modern residential development to the south and south-east, industrial development to the north and farmland surrounding Penleigh to the south-west. West Wiltshire Trading Estate is located to the north of the site, north of Westbury Station.

1.4 Westbury lies on the Greensand bench at the foot of the chalk downs of Salisbury Plain, which rises above the town to the south and east. The site lies is largely flat, and sits at a height of c.60-65m AOD.

- 1.5 The geology underlying the proposed development site comprises Kimmeridge Clay of Jurassic date to the south, and Westbury Ironstone, Todber Freestone and Hazlebury Sandstone outcrops to the north. Within the shallow valley of the Biss Brook alluvium of Holocene date has been deposited (BGS 2016). Natural substrate of white/off white chalk rich gravel was encountered in the base of Trench 3 and light yellow brown silt clay in the remaining trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been the subject of a preceding Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA: CA 2015), and two phases of geophysical survey (GSB 2015; GSB 2016), to which reference should be made for further detail. In summary, the HDBA identified non-designated earthworks at the south-western end of the proposed development site, which at the time were likely to comprise the remains of a building platform and associated ditch (possibly a hollow way) of probable medieval/post-medieval origin. The south-western end of the proposed development site also contains known remnant earthworks associated with a former post-medieval water meadow system. Whilst none are known within the site, prehistoric and Roman remains have previously been excavated between 0.75km to 1km to the north east, and a potential deserted medieval settlement at Penleia lies c. 0.5km to the south. A scheduled monument, a moated site to the east of Penleigh Farm, also lies c. 0.5km to the south, and may be the site of Penleigh manor (NMR No. 1013083). The proposed development site also has potential for medieval/post-medieval agricultural remains, and for modern structural remains associated with the adjacent railway.
- 2.2 The Phase 1 trial trench evaluation targeted the putative ditch/hollow way feature with two trenches. These revealed the feature to be a canalised water course running north-west/south-east along the edge of the valley bottom, with no evidence of building platforms to the west of it. Dating and interpretation of the feature was difficult, but a water management function, probably related to the adjacent water meadows, seems most likely (CA 2015b). Geophysical survey of the wider development area subject to the present Phase 2 evaluation in late 2015 revealed no anomalies of obvious archaeological potential. A historic boundary ditch and areas of industrial activity were identified (GSB 2016).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable WCC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 18 trenches, all 50m long by 2m wide, with the exception of Trenches 16 and 20 that were 30m and 20m long respectively, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17 and 19 were all relocated from those proposed in the WSI to avoid overhead power cables. In addition, Trench 16 was split in to two to form Trenches 16 and 20, located either side of the power cable, with the approval of Rachel Foster. Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated as part of the Phase 1 evaluation of the site and are reported separately (CA 2015b). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling and no artefacts were recovered during the course of the evaluation.

- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Wiltshire Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the site, with the exception of Trench 3. The natural substrate, which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m below present ground level (bpgl), comprised light yellow brown silt clay. In Trench 3 the natural substrate consisted of white/off white chalk rich gravel encountered between 0.6m and 1.2m bpgl. The natural substrate was generally overlain by subsoil consisting of grey/brown silt clay relict plough soil typically between 0.09m and 0.15m thick. The exceptions were Trench 3 where this layer was up to 0.68m thick, and Trenches 5, 8 and 12, where there was no subsoil. The relict plough soil was sealed by a c. 0.2m thick dark brown clay/silt modern plough soil. In Trench 3, the plough soil was sealed by 0.19m thick dark brown silty peat topsoil and in Trench 5 natural substrate was sealed by 0.23m thick dark brown silt/clay modern topsoil.
- 5.3 There was generally a poor correlation with the geophysical anomalies from the preceding surveys (GSB 2015 and 2016). The area of high magnetic disturbance targeted by Trenches 13, 14, 15 and 16 turned out to be a thin scatter of slag and cinders within the modern plough soil. With the exception of a drain in Trench 13, all linear anomalies had no identifiable expression within the trench testing them.
- 5.4 Trenches 4 to 10 and 14 to 20 contained no archaeological features and no artefacts pre-dating the 19th century, despite scanning of the spoil from all trenches.



Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3 & 4)

- 5.5 In Trench 3, seven undated features were identified. The earliest features identified were a north/south orientated ditch 308 and a possible pit 318 (Fig. 3). Despite battering the sides of the trench and utilising a pump, it was not possible to excavate either feature, which lay at a depth of 1.2m bpgl, due to the volume of incoming ground water (Fig 4, photograph). Observations made during matching, suggest that they both have upper fills consisting of very dark brown silty decayed peat (307 and 317 respectively). Sealing these features was a 0.48m thick very dark brown silty decayed peat 315. This layer was clearly cut on its western side by ditch 304 and was overlain by possible relict plough soil 302 (Fig. 4, Section AA)
- 5.6 The north-west/south-east orientated ditch 304 was 1.95m wide and 0.42m deep, with moderately sloping sides and slightly concave base. It contained the single slightly sandy orange/brown silt/clay fill 303. This was 0.13m thick and was sealed by the possible relict plough soil 302, which filled the remainder of the cut. Some 1.6m to the east was a similar, parallel ditch 306. The parallel nature of the ditches suggests that they could be drainage ditches flanking a field boundary. To the east of the ditches were two furrows on a similar alignment suggesting that they may all be elements of a contemporary arable field system (Fig. 3).
- 5.7 In the eastern end of Trench 3 a north-east/south-west orientated ditch, 312, was identified (Fig. 4, section BB and photograph). It was 0.68m wide and 0.2m deep with moderately sloping sides and flat base, containing the single grey brown clay fill 311, which was sealed by relict plough soil 302.

Trench 13 (Fig. 2)

- 5.4 Trench 13 contained an undated north–west/south-east orientated drain 1306 which correlated with a north-west/south-east geophysical anomaly. The cut had vertical sides and a flat, angular southern butt-end within the trench. The base of the cut was not seen as it was hidden by the structure 1305, which consisted of a light yellow/white lime mortar with 10% gravel inclusions forming the floor and side wall foundations of a drain. Above the structure was ash and cinder fill 1304. Given the nature of the mortar and the cinder and ash fill it is possible that this is a 19th or 20th-century feature.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 There was little correlation between the features identified during the evaluation and the preceding geophysical survey (GSB 2015 and 2016). Only Trenches 3 and 13 contained any archaeological features, and the lack of pre 19th-century archaeological artefacts, despite visual scanning of the spoil from the trenches, strongly suggests that despite the archaeological potential of the area (see Section 2 above) there has been little or no activity within the central and eastern areas of site. The only exceptions are the features in the west of the site in Trenches 1 and 2 excavated in 2015 (CA 2015b) and Trench 3; and a 19th or 20th-century drain in Trench 13.
- 6.2 Possibly the earliest features identified within the Phase 2 evaluation were the north-west/south-east orientated ditch 308 and pit 318 in Trench 3 (Fig. 3). These features were overlain by decayed peat layer 315, which was identical to the fills of the underlying features. As a result of ground water inundation and the depth of the trench, 1.2m bpgl, it was not possible to investigate these features beyond making observation in plan from the side of the trench as they were uncovered by machine. This means that although they looked in plan like discreet features, there is still a possibility that they are simply the base of the overlying layer 315; a peaty deposit forming in the lower portion of a linear depression in Trench 3 over the natural gravels.
- 6.3 The north-east/south-west orientated ditch 312 located at the eastern end of Trench 3, underlies the later possible relic plough soil 302. However, it is unclear what its function is or what it relates to.
- 6.4 The two parallel north-west/south-east orientated ditches, 304 and 306, seem to form a field boundary, which cuts the western side of layer 315 (Figs 3 and 4, section AA and photographs). The two furrows on a similar alignment at the eastern end of the Trench 3 may be related to this boundary, as may be the two furrows in Trench 2 of the Phase 1 evaluation (Fig. 3), together with relict ploughsoil 302 indicating a later phase of reclamation and arable farming of this formerly wet area, prior to its return to water meadow.. The canalised stream (110 and 210) uncovered in Trenches 1 and 2 of the Phase 1 evaluation may also be related to this phase of activity, as it has a similar alignment to the furrows and ditches 304 and 306.

6.5 In Trench 13 the possible drain, 1306, seems to correspond to a north/south geophysical anomaly (Fig. 2). Given the nature of its fills, structure 1306 and cinder and ash fill 1304 it is probable that it is a 19th or 20th-century feature and related to the railway in some way.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby, assisted by Andrew Hurst, Jess Stevens and Juan Moreno. The report was written by Peter Busby. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*. Online resource at: http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

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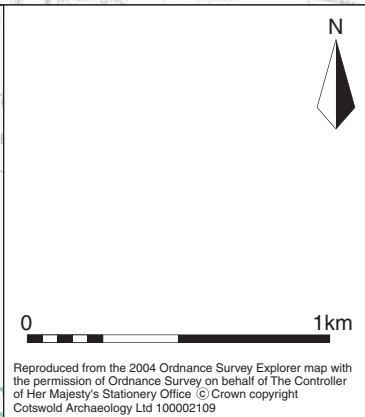
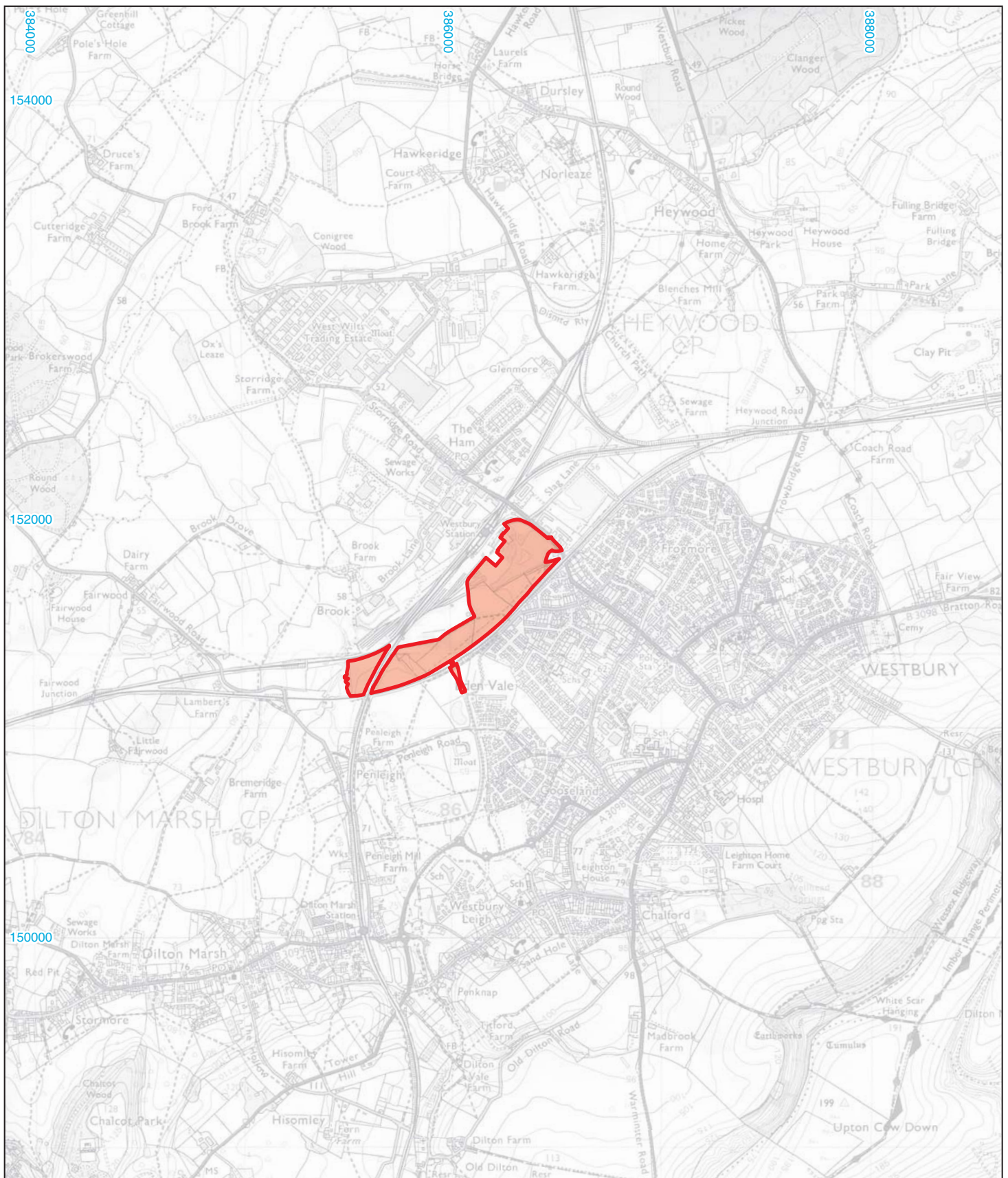
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
3	301	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt peat	>50	>2	0.19
3	302	Layer		Possible relict plough soil	Grey brown silt with 5% coarse chalky sand/gravel, 5% decayed vegetation	>50	>2	0.68
3	303	Fill	304	Ditch Fill	Orange brown silt clay with 10% chalky sand/gravel	>3.3	1.95	0.13
3	304	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE orientated linear with moderately sloping sides and slightly concave base	>3.3	1.95	0.42
3	305	Fill	306	Ditch Fill	As 302	>3.34	0.85	-
3	306	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE orientated linear. Not excavated. Not excavated due to water inundation	>3.34	0.85	-
3	307	Fill	308	Ditch Fill	Very dark brown silty decayed peat	>2.1	1.7	-
3	308	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE orientated linear. Not excavated due to water inundation	>2.1	1.7	-
3	309	Fill	310	Furrow fill	As 302	>3.28	1.89	0.03
3	310	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE orientated linear, with very shallow sides and slightly irregular base	>3.28	1.89	0.03
3	311	Fill	312	Ditch Fill	Grey brown clay with 5% chalky gravel and 25% decayed vegetation	>2.42	0.68	0.2
3	312	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW orientated linear with moderately sloping sides and flat base	>2.42	0.68	0.2
3	313	Fill	314	Furrow fill	As 302	>2.95	0.8	0.05
3	314	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE orientated linear, extremely shallow	>2.95	0.8	0.05
3	315	Layer		Peat	As 308	>10.1	>2	0.48
3	316	Layer		Natural	White/off white chalk rich gravel	>50	>2	>0.2
3	317	Fill	318	Pit fill	As 307		1.97	-
3	318	Cut		Pit	Circular in plan. Not excavated due to water inundation		1.97	-
4	401	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	Dark brown silt clay	>50	>2	0.17
4	402	Layer		Relict plough soil	Grey brown silt clay	>50	>2	0.07
4	403	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown silt clay	>50	>2	>0.17
5	501	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay	>50	>2	0.23
5	502	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown silt clay	>50	>2	>0.17
6	601	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.18
6	602	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>50	>2	0.15
6	603	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.15
7	701	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.25
7	702	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>50	>2	0.09
7	703	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.1
8	801	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.15
8	802	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.15
9	901	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.2
9	902	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>50	>2	0.07

9	903	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.15
10	1001	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.19
10	1002	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>50	>2	0.1
10	1003	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.1
11	1101	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.23
11	1102	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>50	>2	0.1
11	1103	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.15
12	1201	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.12
12	1202	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.28
13	1301	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.19
13	1302	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>50	>2	0.15
13	1303	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.16
13	1304	Fill	1306	Drain fill	Black grey ash/cinders	>0.8	1.67	0.42
13	1305	Structure	1306	Structure	Light yellow white lime mortar floor and wall foundation	>0.8	1.67	-
13	1306	Cut		Drain	NW/SE orientated linear with a square southern end, angular corners and vertical sides	>0.8	1.67	>0.42
14	1401	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.2
14	1402	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>50	>2	0.1
14	1403	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.1
15	1501	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.24
15	1502	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>50	>2	0.13
15	1503	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.1
16	1601	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>30	>2	0.22
16	1602	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>30	>2	0.12
16	1603	Layer		Natural	As 403	>30	>2	>0.1
17	1701	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.2
17	1702	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>50	>2	0.11
17	1703	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.2
18	1801	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.2
18	1802	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>50	>2	0.1
18	1803	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.16
19	1901	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>50	>2	0.22
19	1902	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>50	>2	0.1
19	1903	Layer		Natural	As 403	>50	>2	>0.1
20	2001	Layer		Plough soil (modern)	As 401	>20	>2	0.25
20	2002	Layer		Relict plough soil	As 402	>20	>2	0.09
20	2003	Layer		Natural	As 403	>20	>2	>0.05

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Westbury Sailing Lake Phase 2	
Short description	<p>A second phase of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2016 at land next to Westbury Sailing Lake, Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire. Eighteen trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Two undated ditches and a pit were identified in the western part of the site, along with a later, but undated, north-west/south-east orientated field boundary ditch and associated series of furrows. A possible 19th or 20th-century drain was identified in the central area of the site. No artefacts pre-dating the 19th-century were identified, and none recovered, during the course of the evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	22-26 February 2016	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Phase 1 field evaluation; CA 2015 Geophysical survey; GSB (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford) 2015 Phase 2 Geophysical Survey; GSB 2016	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire	
Study area	22.3ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 8610 5140	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		None
Paper	Wiltshire Museum	Context and trench sheets, drawings
Digital	Wiltshire Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Land at Westbury Sailing Lake Phase 2 Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 15639		



Cotswold Archaeology

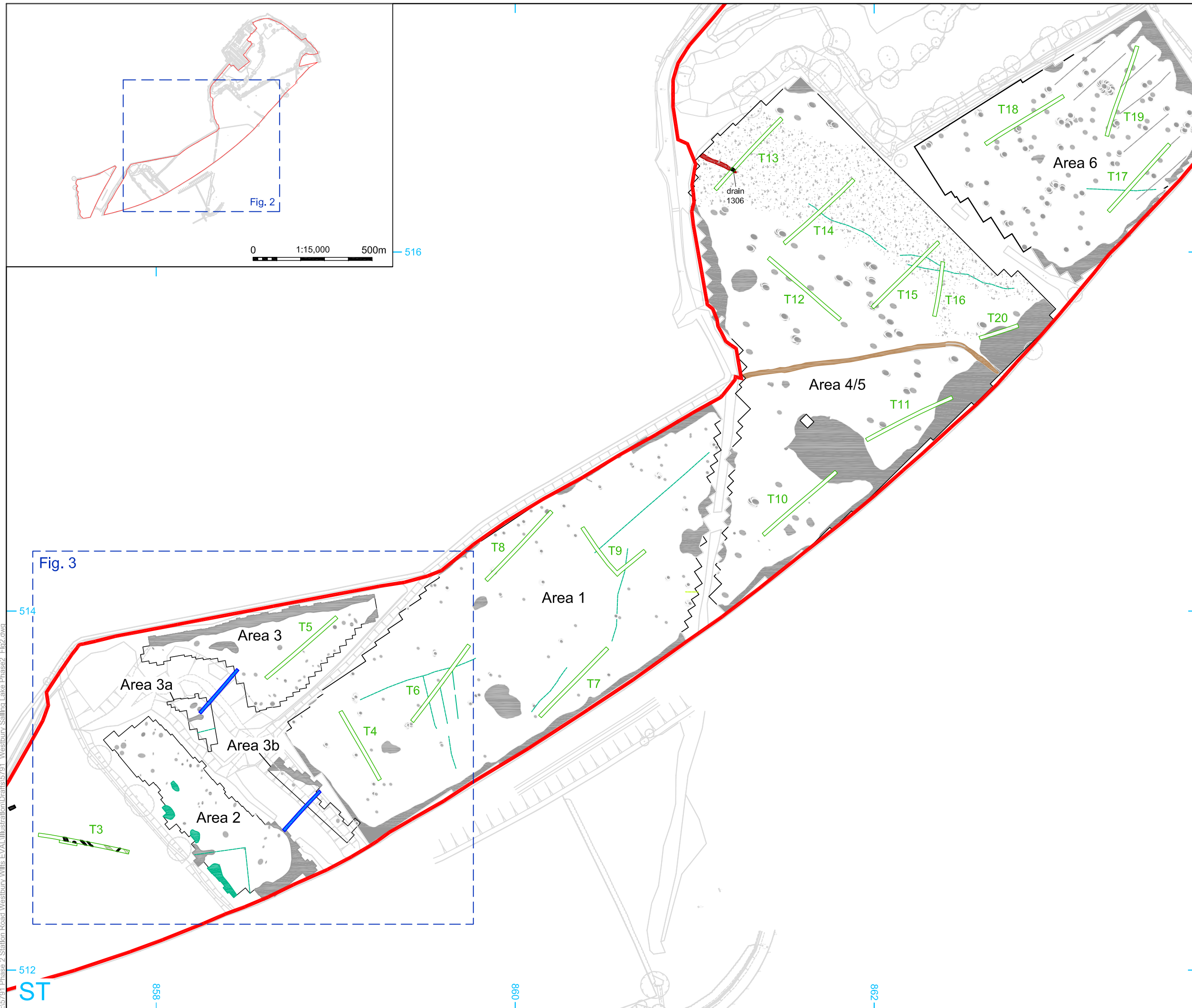
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 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Westbury Sailing Lake - Phase 2
 Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY LJH	PROJECT NO. 5791	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 09/03/16	
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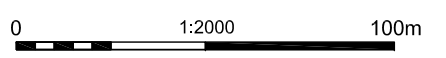
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- site boundary
- previous CA evaluation trenches (July 2015)
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- furrow

Geophysics Survey results (GSB Propection Ltd 2016)

- ?Railway siding
- Former field boundary
- Uncertain origin - weak anomaly/trend
- Drain
- Area of Magnetic Disturbance
- Ferrous



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Westbury Sailing Lake Phase 2 Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire

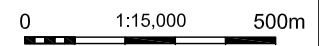
FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

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Fig. 3

Fig. 2



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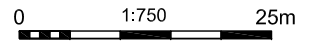
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- site boundary
- previous CA evaluation trenches (July 2015)
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- furrow
- field drain
- earthwork top of slope
- earthwork bottom of slope
- section location



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Westbury Sailing Lake Phase 2 Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan of western trenches showing archaeological features and earthworks

DRAWN BY	LOC/LJH	PROJECT NO.	5791	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	16/03/2016	3
APPROVED BY	SC	SCALE@A3	1:750	

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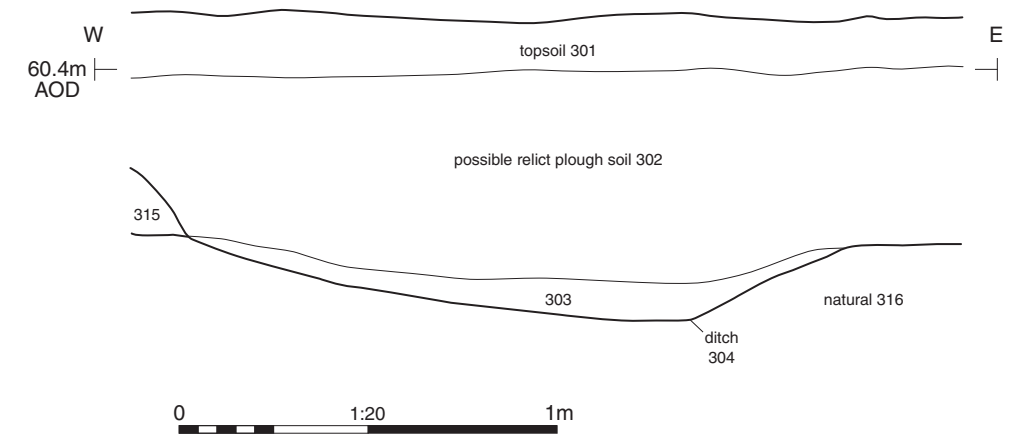


View of Trench 3 immediately after machining, ditch 308 and pit 318 are below the water in the foreground

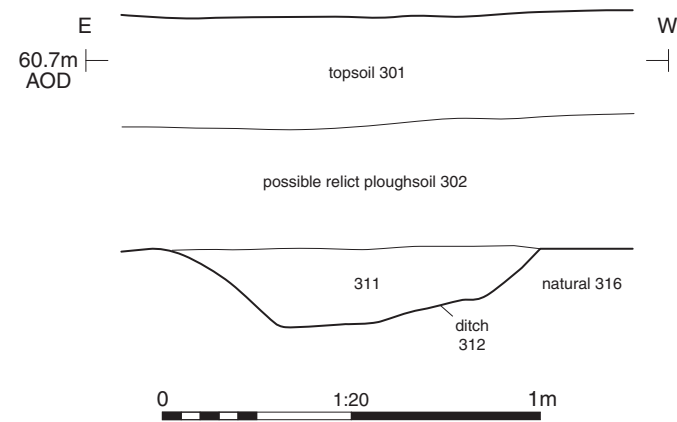


View of north-west / south-east orientated ditches 304 and 306 immediately after machining, looking north-west (1m scale)

Section AA



Section BB



North facing section through ditch 312, looking south (1m scale)



South facing section through ditch 304, looking north (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Westbury Sailing Lake - Phase 2
Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3: sections and photographs

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