

Land at 54 Woodmarsh North Bradley, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Atelier 17

CA Project: CR1162

Wiltshire Museum accession no.:
DZSWS:45-2022

November 2022



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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land at 54 Woodmarsh
Location:	North Bradley, Wiltshire
NGR:	385809 155398
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	15–16 September 2022
Location of archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Accession number:	DZSWS:45-2022
Site code:	WNB22

In September 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 54 Woodmarsh, North Bradley, Wiltshire. A total of three trenches were excavated.

The evaluation recorded a single shallow ditch, from which 13 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. This ditch may represent low-level Roman activity at the site. Alternatively, as the ditch corresponds in alignment to the extant field system, it is possible that it represents a former element within the present field system, and that the Roman material is residual/redeposited within a later feature.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In September 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 54 Woodmarsh, North Bradley, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 385809 155398; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Atelier 17.
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application for residential development of the site, which will be made to Wiltshire Council. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Neil J. Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2022) and approved by WCAS.
- 1.3. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4. The application site currently comprises a horse paddock to the rear of 54 Woodmarsh, North Bradley. The area is generally level, with a slight slope down towards the north-east.
- 1.5. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation mudstone, which formed in the Jurassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded at the site (BGS 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Evidence for a small Iron Age settlement has been recorded to the south-west of White Horse Business Park, c. 270m north of the application site.
- 2.2. A geophysical survey of the application site (Archaeological Surveys 2022) recorded a small number of weak linear and discrete anomalies of uncertain origin. There was evidence for former ridge and furrow, indicating that the application site was in agricultural use in the medieval/early post-medieval period. The south-western part of the site contains magnetic debris indicative of an area of made ground.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Wiltshire Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).
- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to ground-test the geophysical survey results (Archaeological Surveys 2022).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 3no 20m x 1.8m trenches (Fig. 2). The trenches were located to provide a c. 2% sample of the proposed development area and to test geophysical anomalies (Archaeological Surveys 2022).
- 4.2. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.3. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.4. 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.
- 4.5. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.6. CA will make arrangements with Wiltshire Museum (accession no: DZSWS:45-2022) for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal

landowner(s), the artefact collection. CA will pay any box fees required by the receiving museum. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).

- 4.7. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B.

- 5.2. The natural geological substrate comprised yellow-brown silty clay in a mudstone matrix. It was exposed at a depth of 0.39m–0.6m below present ground level. It was covered by 0.24m–0.46m of subsoil, which was sealed in turn by 0.14m–0.17m of modern topsoil.

- 5.3. North-west/south-east aligned ditch 303 was present in Tr3 (Fig. 3). This ditch was 0.53m wide and 0.16m deep. It had a single fill (304), from which 13 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered.

- 5.4. Three modern ceramic land drains and a modern water pipe were also recorded (shown on Fig. 2).

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material consisting of pottery, fired clay and animal bone was recovered from a single deposit: fill 304 of ditch 303 (Tr3). The artefacts have been recorded by deposit and fragment/item count, weight, type and morphological characteristics according to each find category (Appendix B). The recording undertaken is in accordance with the *ClfA Finds Toolkit* (ClfA 2021). Codes for pottery fabrics referred to in the report are defined in Appendix B. Where appropriate, these correspond to those of the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Pottery

- 6.2. A total of 13 sherds (36g) of Roman pottery were recovered. The pottery is well broken up with some abrasions recorded. The majority consists of coarseware sherds in reduced (WIL RE, eight fragments, 22g) and oxidised (WIL OX, three sherds, 6g) fabrics, probably of local production. A single sherd (3g) of Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware (DOR BB1) and a single abraded sherd of Central Gaulish samian (LEZ SA2), the latter part of the foot ring of a dish or bowl, were also recovered. A date in the 2nd century or later is indicated by the presence of types DOR BB1 and LEZ SA2.

Fired clay

- 6.3. A total of two fragments (4g) of fired clay were recorded in a medium sandy orange fabric. The fragments preserve no features suggestive of function.

Animal bone

- 6.4. A total of 20 fragments (19g) of animal bone were recovered. The material was poorly preserved and fragmentary. As a result, none of the bone was identifiable to either skeletal element or species.

Summary

- 6.5. A small artefactual assemblage was recovered during the evaluation, all from ditch 303 (Tr3). Pottery was the dominant find. Much of this material draws from local coarsewares (WIL RE, WIL OX) but it also includes regionally sourced DOR BB1 and imported samian, with indications that the pottery dated to the 2nd–4th centuries.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. The evaluation recorded a single shallow ditch, from which 13 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. This ditch may represent low-level Roman activity at the site. Alternatively, as the ditch corresponds in alignment to the extant field system, it is possible that it represents a former element within the present field system, and that the Roman material is residual/redeposited within a later feature.
- 7.2. Three modern field drains and a modern water pipe were also noted.

7.3. Correspondence to the geophysical survey results (Archaeological Surveys 2022) was generally good, with the ditch, drains and water pipe all being on the broad lines of linear geophysical anomalies.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

8.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard, assisted by Jordan Bendell. This report was written by Derek Evans. The finds report was written by Claire Collier-Jones. The report illustrations were prepared by Krissy Moore. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxford. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

9. REFERENCES

Archaeological Surveys 2022 *Land behind 54 Woodmarsh, North Bradley, Wiltshire: Magnetometer Survey Report*

British Geological Survey 2022 *BGS Geology Viewer*

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/mapviewers/bgs-geology-viewer/> Accessed 2 August 2022

CIfA 2021 *CIfA Finds Reporting Toolkit* <https://www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit> accessed October 2022

Cotswold Archaeology 2022 *Land at 54 Woodmarsh, North Bradley, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2021 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Tomber, R. and Dore, J. 1998 *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection* London, MoLAS Monograph 2

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clayey silt		0.17	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Reddish-brown clayey silt		0.26	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Yellow-brown silty clay in mudstone matrix			
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clayey silt		0.15	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Reddish-brown clayey silt		0.24	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Yellow-brown silty clay in mudstone matrix			
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clayey silt		0.14	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Reddish-brown clayey silt		0.46	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Yellow-brown silty clay in mudstone matrix			
3	303	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned	0.53	0.16	
3	304	Deposit	303	Ditch fill	Dark grey silty clay	0.53	0.16	C2-C4

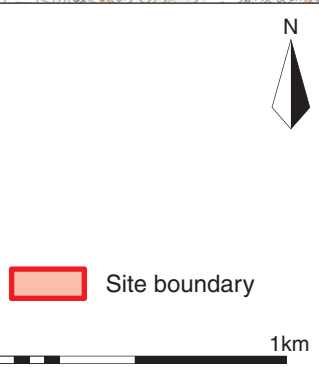
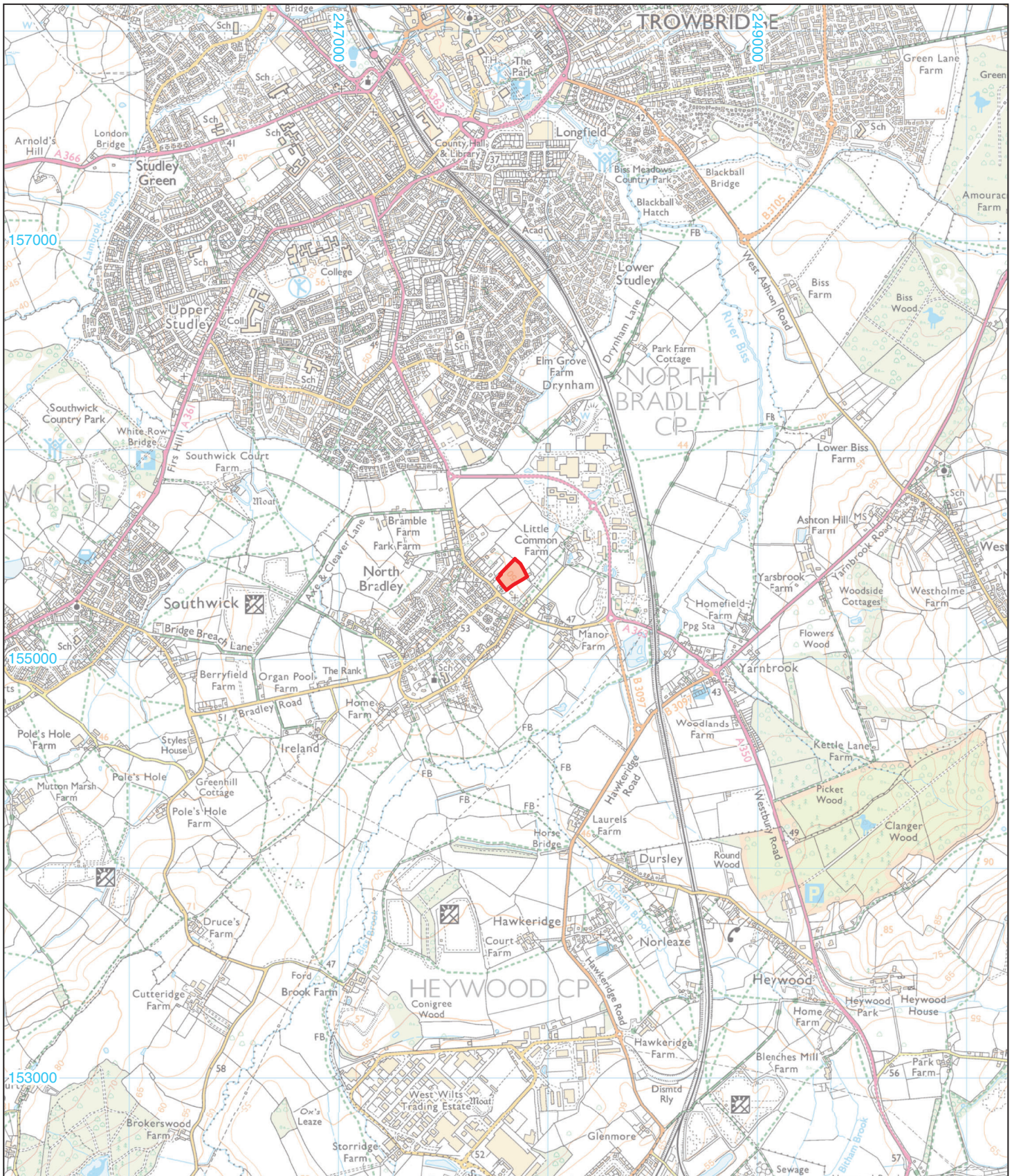
APPENDIX B: FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Material	Fabric*	Description	Count	Wt(g)	Spot-date
304	Pottery	WIL RE	Wiltshire reduced	8	22	C2-C4
	Pottery	WIL OX	Wiltshire oxidised	3	6	
	Pottery	DOR BB1	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	1	5	
	Pottery	LEZ SA2	Central Gaulish (Lezoux) samian	1	3	
	Fired clay		Orange sandy medium	2	4	
	Animal bone		unidentifiable	20	19	

*Fabric codes in bold correspond to NRFRC types (Tomber and Dore 1998)

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

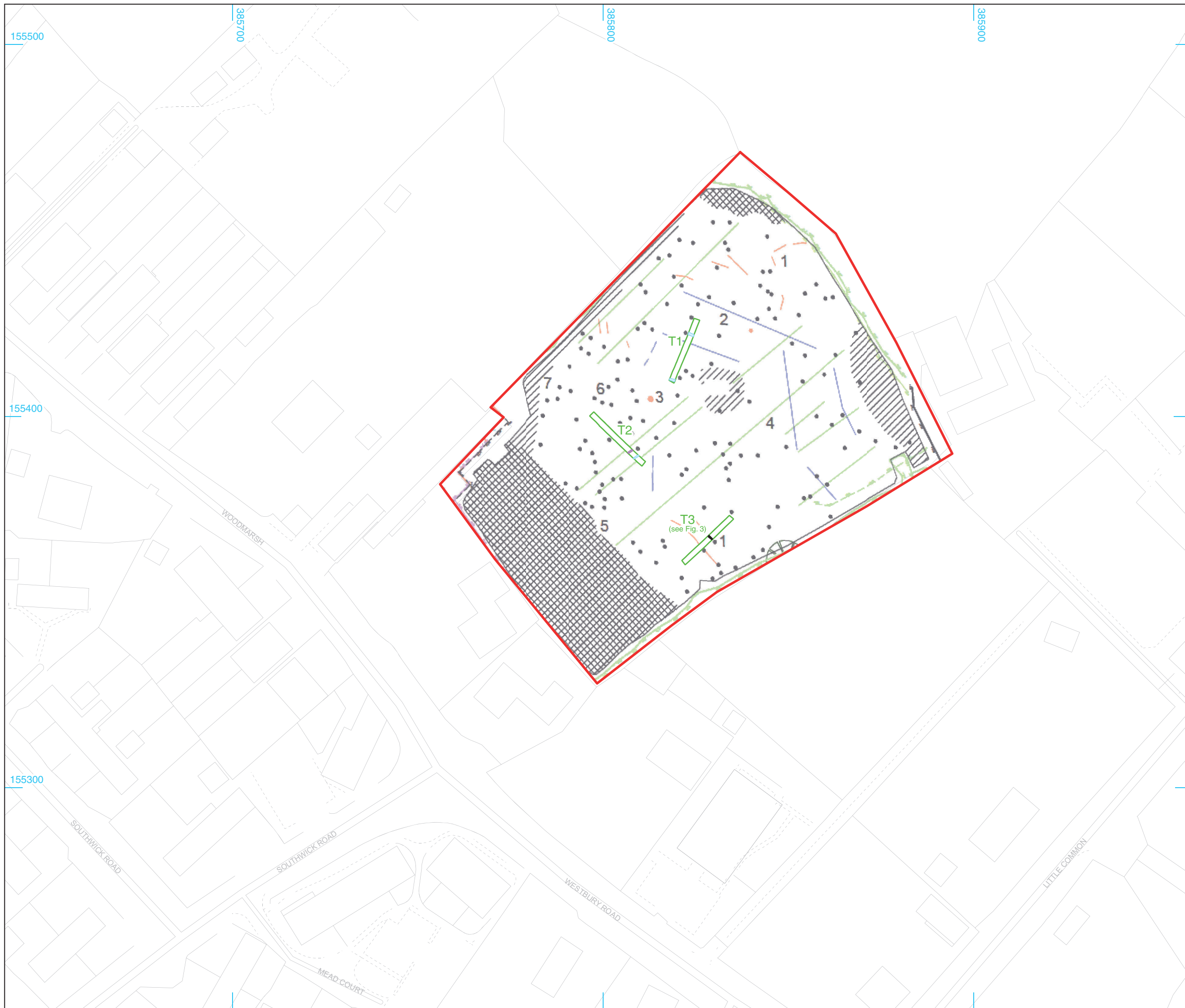
PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land at 54 Woodmarsh, North Bradley, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>In September 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 54 Woodmarsh, North Bradley, Wiltshire. A total of three trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation recorded a single shallow ditch, from which 13 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. This ditch may represent low-level Roman activity at the site. Alternatively, as the ditch corresponds in alignment to the extant field system, it is possible that it represents a former element within the present field system, and that the Roman material is residual/redeposited within a later feature.</p>	
Project dates	15–16 September 2022	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2022)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	54 Woodmarsh, North Bradley, Wiltshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	2ha	
Site co-ordinates	385809 155398	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Adam Howard	
Project Supervisor	Derek Evans	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Wiltshire Museum (DZSWS:45-2022)	Ceramics
Paper	Wiltshire Museum (DZSWS:45-2022)	Site recording forms
Digital	Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2022 <i>Land at 54 Woodmarsh, North Bradley, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation CA</i> typescript report CR1162_1		




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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at 54 Woodmarsh, North Bradley,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Modern
- Field drain

**Geophysical survey results
(Archaeological Surveys 2022)**

- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Linear anomaly - of agricultural origin
- Negative linear anomaly - material of low magnetic susceptibility
- Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature
- Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremanent/ferrous material
- Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



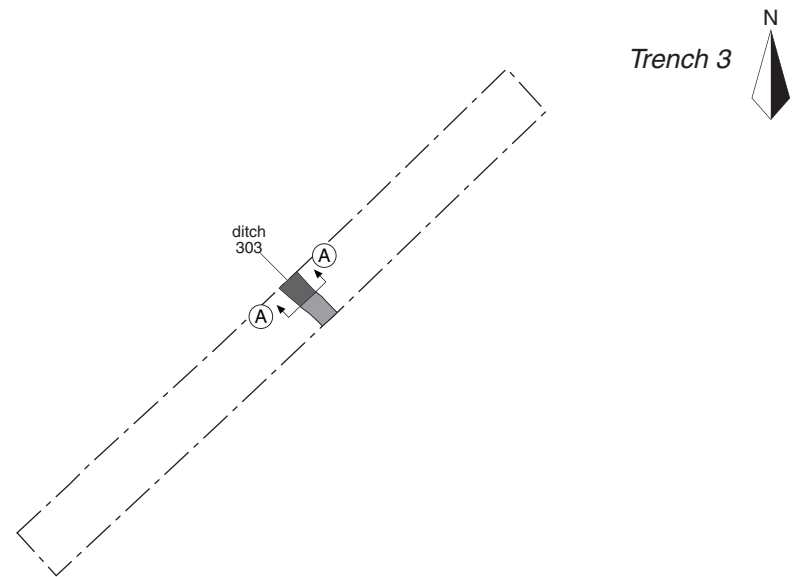
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PROJECT TITLE
Land at 54 Woodmarsh, North Bradley, Wiltshire

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

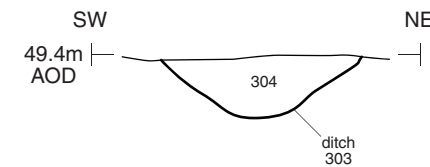
<small>DRAWN BY</small> KM	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR1162	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 03.10.2022	2
<small>APPROVED BY</small> DE	<small>SCALE</small> @A3 1:1000	



0 1:200 10m

Evaluation trench
 Archaeological feature
 (excavated/unexcavated)
 Section location

Section AA



0 1:20 1m



Ditch 303, looking north-west (scale 0.5m)



Trench 3, looking north-east (scales 1m)

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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at 54 Woodmarsh, North Bradley,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 3: plan, section and
 photographs**

DRAWN BY	KM	PROJECT NO.	CR1162	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	03.10.2022	3
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	

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