

Rowden Park Chippenham Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
CgMs Consulting Limited

CA Project: 5026
CA Report: 14382

November 2016



Rowden Park
Chippenham
Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief of Geotechnical Investigations

CA Project: 5026
CA Report: 14382



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Rowden Park
Location:	Chippenham, Wiltshire
NGR:	Centred on NGR 390974 171864
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	18-21 August 2014
Location of Archive:	Chippenham Museum & Heritage Centre
Site Code:	RPCH14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the excavation of eighteen geotechnical trial pits.

The site is south-west of Rowden Manor and includes the site of a battlefield associated with the siege of Rowden Manor during the English Civil War in 1643.

No archaeological features were observed during the groundworks, with the exception of a stone lined field drain in TP 104. The recovered finds consist of two worked flints and an iron object of uncertain date and function, and were recovered from TP's 102, 104 and 112.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the request of CgMs Consulting Ltd at Milbourne Farm, Chippenham (centred on NGR: ST 9170 7207; Fig. 1). The watching brief monitored the excavation of eighteen geotechnical trial pits by Geotechnical Ltd.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by the Wiltshire Council (WC) acting on the advice of the County Archaeologist (CAWC) the archaeological advisors to WC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

1.3 The site lies south of Chippenham and is bounded by Rowden Lane to the North, the River Avon to the East with agricultural land to the South and by the A350 in the West (Fig. 2). The site is located on ancient flood plains and is generally level located around 50m AOD with the exception of land north of a small stream 'Pudding Brook', here the land rises steeply to the North up to Rowden Lane at c60mAOD.

1.4 The site, the majority of which is occupied by Milbourne Farm is currently laid to pasture and measures some 50ha. Glass houses from Showell nursery occupy part of the site to the south. Rowden Manor, the subject of besiegement during the English Civil War is located on high ground to the north-east of the site.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Kellaways Formation and is composed of Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone with river terrace deposits composed of sands and gravels (BGS, 2016).



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies within a conservation area to the south and west of Rowden Manor. The Manor (which has medieval origins) and its associated environs were besieged and fortified during the English Civil War between May 1643 and February 1644. A series of earthworks within the site are labelled on early maps as 'entrenchments' and it is likely the battlefield ranged across parts of the site.
- 2.2 A walkover survey and aerial photograph review undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2014) identified two curvilinear features north of Rowden Manor and which may represent possible prehistoric features.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks which involved the mechanical excavation of eighteen trial pits for the geotechnical engineers. The trenches measured 4.5m in length by 0.60m in width, with an average depth of 4.5m (Fig. 2). Fourteen additional boreholes and probe-holes were not suitable for archaeological monitoring.
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

- 4.3 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Chippenham Museum & Heritage Centre along with the site archive. 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 The excavation of eighteen trial pits was monitored. They measured an average of 4.5m in length by 0.60m in width and measured up to a maximum of 4.5m in depth. The excavation was undertaken using a JCB wheeled mechanical excavator using a toothless graded bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The trial pits were located and numbered by the geotechnical engineers. Two trenches 114 and 115 were not fully monitored as they were located in an area of modern landfill. The observed sequences within the trial pits are summarised below.

Trial Pit 101 (Figs 2, 3)

- 5.2 A dark blueish silty clay with small siltstone inclusions **1013** was recorded at a depth of between 2.7- 3.65m, this underlay **1012** a blueish grey clay between 1.1 – 2.7m in depth, which underlay **1011** a yellowish brown silty clay subsoil 0.72m in depth. The topsoil **1010**, was a greyish brown clayey silt 0.28m in depth.

Trial Pit 102 (Fig 2)

- 5.3 A blueish grey silty clay with small siltstone inclusions **1022** was recorded at a depth of between 1.6 – 4.5m, this underlay **1021** a yellowish brown clay with blueish grey mottling between 0.3 – 1.6m in depth, which underlay **1022** a yellowish brown clayey silty topsoil 0.30m in depth. A small flint blade was recovered from the base of the topsoil.

Trial Pit 103 (Fig 2)

- 5.4 A yellowish brown silty clay with blueish grey mottling **1033** was recorded at a depth of between 0.99 – 4.25m, this underlay **1032** a mid-yellowish brown silty clay with common limestone fragments between 0.47 – 0.99m in depth, which underlay **1031** a mid-yellowish brown silty clay subsoil with common small limestone fragments between 0.28 – 0.47m. The topsoil **1030** was a dark yellowish brown clayey silt 0.28m in depth.

Trial Pit 104 (Figs 2, 4)

- 5.5 A blueish grey clayey silt with siltstone inclusions **1045** was recorded at a depth of between 2.2 – 4.45m, this underlay **1044** a blueish yellow brown clay with blueish grey mottling and inclusions of gypsum between 0.45 – 2.2m in depth, which underlay **1041** a fine yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil with limestone pea grit inclusions between 0.26- 0.45m in depth. The topsoil **1040** was a fine greyish brown clayey silt 0.26m in depth. An undated field drain consisting of rough unworked limestone pieces **1043**, set vertically within a U-shaped trench **1042** measuring 0.35m in width was recorded at the east end of the trench. The drainage feature measured up to 0.44m in depth and ran north-east/south-west, parallel to the A350 road.

Trial Pit 105 (Fig 2)

- 5.6 A blueish grey clay **1053** was recorded at a depth of between 2.2 – 4.3m, this underlay **1052** a dark yellowish brown gritty clay silt with limestone inclusions between 0.45 – 2.2m in depth, which underlay **1051** a fine yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil 0.20m in depth. The topsoil **1050** consisted of a dark yellowish brown clayey silt 0.25m in depth.

Trial Pit 106 (Fig 2)

- 5.7 A blueish grey clayey silt **1063** was recorded at a depth of between 2.8 – 3.3m, this underlay **1062** a yellowish brown gritty clayey sand with abundant limestone inclusions between 0.7 – 2.8m in depth, which underlay **1061** a yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil with rare limestone inclusions between 0.23 – 0.70m in depth. The topsoil **1060** consisted of a greyish brown clayey silt 0.23m in depth.

Trial Pit 107 (Fig 2)

- 5.8 A yellowish brown silty clay with blueish grey mottling **1071** was recorded to a depth of between 0.23 – 4.5m, this underlay **1070** a greyish brown clayey silt topsoil 0.23m in depth.

Trial Pit 108 (Fig 2)

- 5.9 A blueish grey clay **1083** was recorded at a depth of between 2.5 – 4.4m, this underlay **1082** a yellowish brown gritty sand with limestone between 1.02 – 2.5m in depth, which underlay **1081** a yellowish brown silty clay subsoil with rare limestone inclusions between 0.22 – 1.02m in depth. The topsoil **1080** consisted of a greyish brown clayey silt 0.22m in depth.

Trial Pit 109 (Fig 2)

- 5.10 A yellowish-brown gritty sandy silt with limestone inclusions **1092** was recorded at a depth of between 0.56 – 1.9m, this underlay the subsoil **1091** a yellowish brown clayey silt with rare limestone inclusions between 0.28 – 0.56m in depth. The topsoil **1090** consisted of a greyish brown clayey silt 0.28m in depth.

Trial Pit 110 (Fig 2)

- 5.11 A mid-yellowish brown clay with flint gravels **1102** was recorded at a depth of between 0.58 – 3.6m, this underlay **1101** a light brown clayey silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions 0.21 – 0.58m in depth. The topsoil **1100** consisted of a dark grey clayey silt 0.21m in depth.

Trial Pit 111 (Fig 2)

- 5.12 A light yellowish brown sandy silt with flint gravels **1111** was recorded at a depth of between 0.2 – 2.5m. The topsoil **1110** consisted of a dark greyish brown clayey silt 0.2m in depth.

Trial Pit 112 (Fig 2)

- 5.13 A blueish grey clayey sand **1123** was recorded at a depth of between 3.70 – 4.80m, this underlay **1122** a light yellowish brown sandy clay 2.70 – 3.70m in depth. A gritty sand with a yellowish brown clayey silt **1121** lay between 0.30 – 2.70m. The topsoil **1120** consisted of a yellowish brown clayey silt 0.30m in depth. A single find, an iron object was retained from the topsoil.

Trial Pit 113 (Fig 2)

- 5.14 A gritty grey clayey silt with common limestone inclusions **1133** was recorded at a depth of between 2.6 – 3.2m. This overlay **1132** a light yellowish brown clayey silt with gritty sands between 0.7 – 2.6m, this underlay **1052** a dark yellowish brown gritty clay silt with limestone inclusions between 0.45 – 2.2m in depth, which underlay **1051** a fine yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil 0.20m in depth. The topsoil **1130** consisted of a dark yellowish brown clayey silt 0.26m in depth.

Trial Pit 114 (Fig 2)

- 5.15 The trial pit was excavated through contaminated ground which consisted of modern landfill materials including brick, concrete and plastics in excess of 2m in depth and was not further monitored.

Trial Pit 115 (Fig 2)

- 5.16 The trial pith was excavated through contaminated ground which consisted of modern landfill materials in excess of 1.5m in depth and was not further monitored.

Trial Pit 116 (Fig 2)

- 5.17 A dark yellowish brown sandy clay **1162** was recorded at a depth of between 2.9 – 3.9m. This underlay **1161** a greyish brown clayey sand with rare flint inclusions and which became increasingly dark with increased depth and which lay between 0.28 – 2.9m. The topsoil **1160** consisted of a dark yellowish brown clayey silt 0.28m in depth.

Trial Pit 117 (Fig 2)

- 5.18 A yellowish brown sand **1172** was recorded at a depth of between 2.2 – 2.4m. This underlay **1171** a yellowish brown gritty sand with common limestone inclusions which lay between 0.35 – 2.2m. The topsoil **1170** consisted of a dark yellowish brown clayey silt 0.35m in depth.

Trial Pit 118 (Fig 2)

- 5.19 A blueish grey silty clay **1183** was recorded at a depth of between 2.3 – 3.2m. This underlay **1182** a yellowish brown gritty sand with rare flint inclusions which lay between 0.73 – 2.3m. The subsoil **1181**, a yellowish brown clayey silt was recorded between 0.73 – 0.32m in depth and underlay the topsoil **1180**, which consisted of a yellowy brown clayey silt 0.32m in depth.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below.
- 6.2 Two items of prehistoric worked flint were recorded from topsoil deposits 1020 and 1040. Both are flakes and cannot be closely dated.
- 6.3 A single item of iron was recorded from topsoil 1120. The item is of fragmentary and of uncertain function and date.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 No archaeological features were encountered within the narrow trial trenches (which measured only 0.60m in width by a maximum length of 4.5m), with the exception of a stone built field drain which crossed trench 104. Whilst undated the field drain **1042** which was constructed of limestone rubble with numerous voids, may be associated with the A350 road which was located 10m to the north of the trench.
- 8.2 The only pre-modern finds recovered consist of a small flint blade from trial pit 102 and a waste flake from 104. These were recovered from topsoil deposits and are indicative of prehistoric activity within the vicinity.
An iron object was recovered from TP 112 but was of uncertain date and function due to its fragmentary nature.
- 8.3 No other pre-modern finds were noted within any of the trenches. No finds associated with the Civil War actions around Rowden Park were identified.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard and Joe Whelan. The report was written by Joe Whelan. The finds report was written by Katie Marsden. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Andrew Donald, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 9 November 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Riverside Park, Chippenham Specialist Walkover Survey and Aerial Photography Review* CA Report No.14344

CA 2014, *Rowden Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief of Geotechnical Investigations*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
101	1010	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown clayey silt	4.5	0.6	0-0.28	
101	1011	Layer		Subsoil	Yellowish brown silty clay	4.5	0.6	0.28-1.1	
101	1012	Layer		Natural	Blueish grey silty clay	4.5	0.6	1.1-2.7	
101	1013	Layer		Natural	Dark blueish grey silty clay with siltstone inclusions	4.5	0.6	2.7-3.65+	
102	1020	Layer		Topsoil	Yellowish brown clayey silt	4.5	0.6	0-0.3	
102	1021	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown clay with blueish grey mottling	4.5	0.6	0.3-1.6	
102	1022	Layer		Natural	Blueish grey clay with limestone pea grit	4.5	0.6	1.6-4.5+	
103	1030	Layer		Topsoil	Dark yellowish brown clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0-0.28	
103	1031	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay with limestone inclusions	4.4	0.6	0.28-0.47	
103	1032	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown silty clay with limestone frags	4.4	0.6	0.47-0.99	
103	1033	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown silty clay with blueish grey mottling	4.4	0.6	0.99-4.25+	
104	1040	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown fine clayey silt	4.5	0.6	0-0.26	
104	1041	Layer		Subsoil	Fine yellowish brown clayey silt with limestone inclusions	4.5	0.6	0.26-0.45	
104	1042	Cut		Field drain	Linear, u-shaped cut of field drain	>0.7	0.35	0.44	Modern
104	1043	Fill	1042	Field drain	Limestone rubble fill of field drain	>0.7	0.35	0.44	Modern
104	1044	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown clay with blueish grey mottling	4.5	0.6	0.45-2.2	
104	1045	Layer		Natural	Blueish grey clayey silt siltstone	4.5	0.6	2.2-4.45+	
105	1050	Layer		Topsoil	Dark yellowish brown clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0-0.25	
105	1051	Layer		Subsoil	Fine yellowish brown clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0.25-0.45	
105	1052	Layer		Natural	Dark yellowish brown clayey silt with sub angular limestone	4.4	0.6	0.45-2.2	
105	1053	Layer		Natural	Blueish grey clay	4.4	0.6	2.2-4.3+	
106	1060	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown clayey silt	4.2	0.6	0-0.23	
106	1061	Layer		Subsoil	Yellowish brown clayey silt	4.2	0.6	0.23-0.7	
106	1062	Layer		Natural	Limestone rubble in gritty brown clayey sand	4.2	0.6	0.7-2.8	
106	1063	Layer		Natural	Blueish grey clayey silt	4.2	0.6	2.8-3.3+	
107	1070	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0-0.23	
107	1071	Layer		Natural	Light brownish yellow clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0.23-4.5+	
108	1080	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0-0.22	
108	1081	Layer		Subsoil	Yellowish brown silty clay	4.4	0.6	0.22-1.02	
108	1082	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown gritty sand and limestone rubble	4.4	0.6	1.02-2.5	
108	1083	Layer		Natural	Blueish grey clay	4.4	0.6	2.5-4.4+	
109	1090	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0-0.28	
109	1091	Layer		Subsoil	Yellowish brown clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0.28-0.56	
109	1092	Layer		Natural	Limestone rubble in yellowish brown sandy silt	4.4	0.6	0.56-1.9+	
110	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0-0.21	
110	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0.21-0.58	
110	1102	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown clay and gravel	4.4	0.6	0.58-3.6+	
111	1110	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	4.5	0.6	0-0.2	
111	1111	Layer		Natural	Light brownish yellow sandy silt and gravel	4.5	0.6	0.2-2.5+	

112	1120	Layer		Topsoil	Yellowish brown clayey silt	4.5	0.6	0-0.3	
112	1121	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown clayey silt with sub angular limestone	4.5	0.6	0.3-2.7	
112	1122	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay	4.5	0.6	2.7-3.7	
112	1123	Layer		Natural	Blueish grey clayey sand	4.5	0.6	3.7-4.8+	
113	1130	Layer		Topsoil	Dark yellowish brown clayey silt	3.8	0.6	0-0.26	
113	1131	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt	3.8	0.6	0.26-0.7	
113	1132	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown clayey silt with sands and gravels	3.8	0.6	0.7-2.6	
113	1133	Layer		Natural	Gritty grey clayey silt with limestone rubble	3.8	0.6	2.6-3.2+	
114					Not monitored due to modern landfill				
115					Not monitored due to modern landfill				
116	1160	Layer		Topsoil	Yellowish brown clayey silt	4.5	0.6	0-0.28	
116	1161	Layer		Natural	Greyish brown clayey sand	4.5	0.6	0.28-2.9	
116	1162	Layer		Natural	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay	4.5	0.6	2.9-3.9+	
117	1170	Layer		Topsoil	Dark yellowish brown clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0-0.35	
117	1171	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown gritty sand	4.4	0.6	0.35-2.2	
117	1172	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown sand	4.4	0.6	2.2-2.4+	
118	1180	Layer		Topsoil	Yellowish brown clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0-0.32	
118	1181	Layer		Subsoil	Yellowish brown clayey silt	4.4	0.6	0.32-0.73	
118	1182	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown gritty sand with flints	4.4	0.6	0.73-2.3	
118	1183	Layer		Natural	Blueish grey silty clay	4.4	0.6	2.3-3.2+	

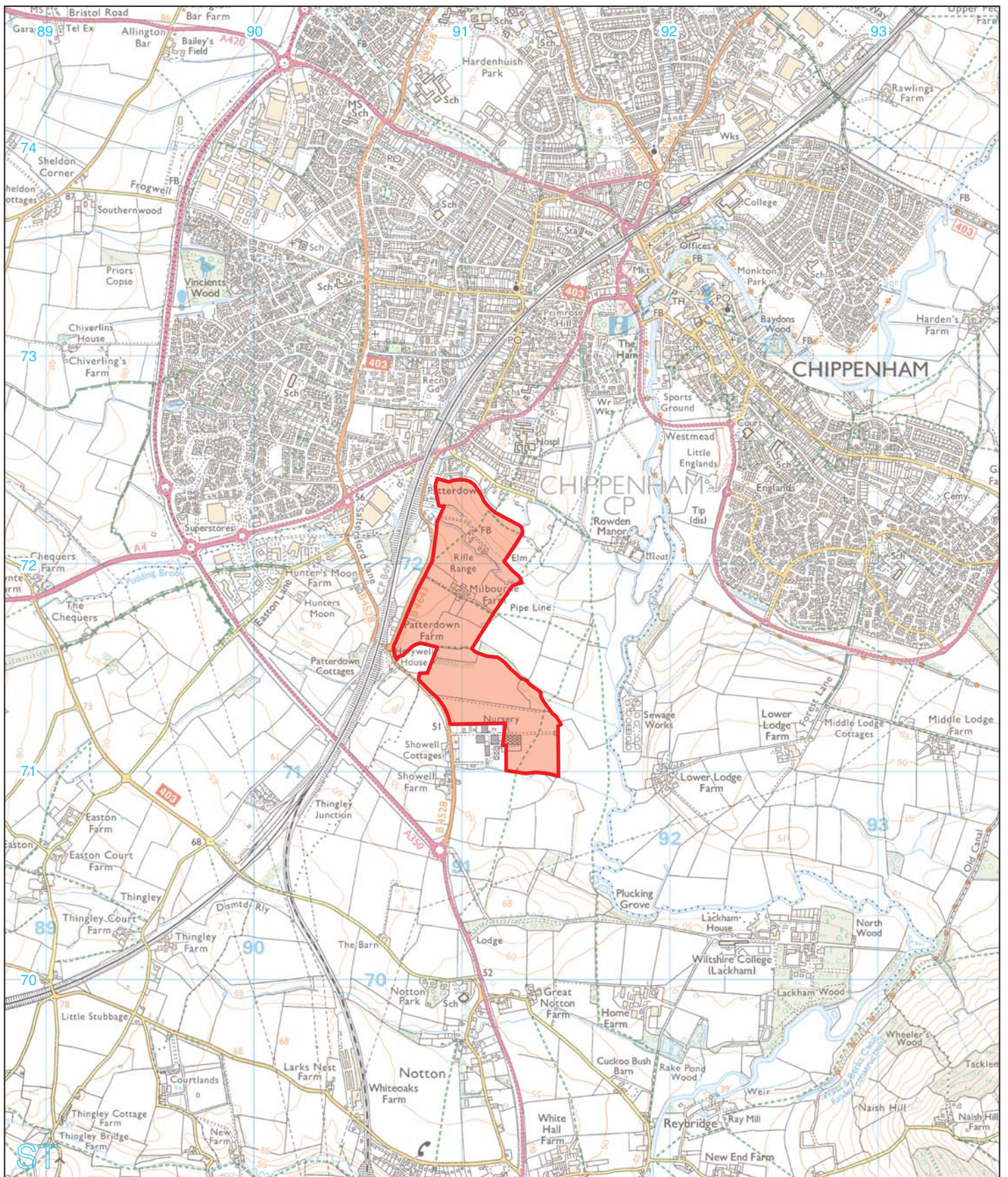
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Appendix B

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
1020	flint	flake	1	1	-
1040	flint	flake	1	1	-
1120	iron	object	1	7	-

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Rowden Park Chippenham	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the excavation of eighteen geotechnical trial pits. The site is south-west of Rowden Manor and includes the site of a battlefield associated with the siege of Rowden Manor during the English Civil War in 1643. No archaeological features were observed during the groundworks, with the exception of a stone lined field drain in TP 104. The recovered finds consist of two worked flints and an iron object were recovered from TP's 102, 104 and 112.	
Project dates	18-21 August 2014	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching brief monitoring the excavation of 16 geotechnical trenches	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Geophysical survey was undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics in July 2014 Trial trench evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2014 Report No. 14584	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Fields surrounding Milbourne Farm, Chippenham SN15 2NP	
Study area (M ² /ha)	c50ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	Centered on NGR 390974 171864	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex	
Project Supervisor	Joe Whelan	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Chippenham Museum & Heritage Centre	Flint, Fe. Object
Paper	Chippenham Museum & Heritage Centre	Trench and context sheets
Digital	Chippenham Museum & Heritage Centre	digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA, 2016 <i>Rowden Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire, Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA Report No. 14382		



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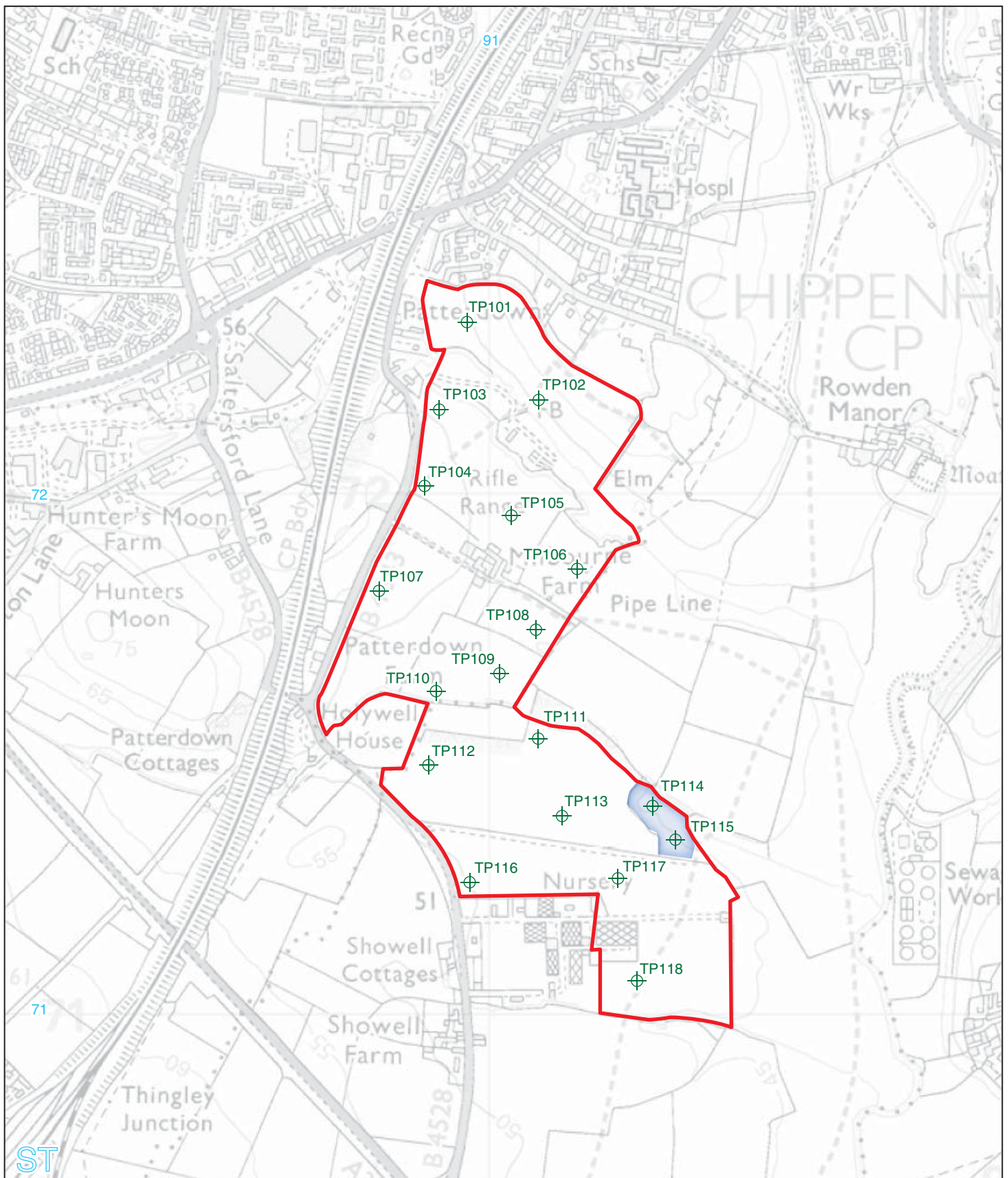
PROJECT TITLE
Rowden Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan



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DRAWN BY SO	PROJECT NO. 5026	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 24/11/2016	
APPROVED BY RK	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1



site boundary



area of historic landfill



test pit location



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PROJECT TITLE

Rowden Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trial pit location plan

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 APPROVED BY RK

PROJECT NO. 5026
 DATE 24/11/2016
 SCALE @A4 1:10,000

FIGURE NO.

2



3

Post-excavation view of TP101 (scale 4m)



4

Post-excavation view of TP104 with field drain 1042 in section



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PROJECT TITLE

Rowden Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	SO	PROJECT NO.	5026	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	24/11/2016	3 & 4
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A4	N/A	

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