Cotswold Archaeology

Greystones Farm
Bourton-on-the-Water
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

for:
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

CA Project: CR1090
CA Report: CR1090_1

June 2023

Andover Cirencester Milton Keynes Suffolk

Greystones Farm
Bourton-on-the-Water
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: CR1090
CA Report: CR1090_1

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Greystones Farm
Location:	Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire
NGR:	417319 220899
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	15 June–11 August 2022 and 22 May–1 June 2023
SMC:	S00242588
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	CAGRY22

In June–August 2022 and May–June 2023, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of new drainage, replacement of gates and reconstruction of a bridge at Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.

Possible rampart material related to the Salmonsbury Camp, and modern footing wall, that may represent remains of a boundary wall Gate Installation, were recorded during the monitored groundworks.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Between June to August 2022 and May to June 2023, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 417319 220899; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

1.2. The work was undertaken to comply with Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC Reference: S00242588) granted by Historic England on 22 April 2022 for the excavation of a new manhole, associated drainage trenches and the extension of an existing soakaway in Greystones Farmyard, replacement gates throughout the farm, and the reconstruction of the bridge over a stream at Summer Walk gate.

1.3. Following consultation between CA, Mel Barge (Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England) and Rachel Foster (Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council; the archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council) it was determined that a programme of archaeological work in the form of a watching brief would be required.

1.4. The watching brief was in line with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 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

1.5. The development site is approximately 29ha in extent and lies on the western outskirts of Bourton-on-the-Water. The site is currently occupied by farm buildings, yard surfaces and surrounding agricultural fields, within the Scheduled Monument of Salmonsbury Camp. It is bounded to the north by agricultural fields; to the east by further agricultural fields and quarry lakes; to the west by residential houses, allotments and a cemetery; and to the south by Cemetery Lane. The site lies at approximately 136m AOD, with the farmyard itself located on a flat area that slopes down gently to the north and east.

1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation, which formed in the Jurassic Period. This is overlain by Sherborne Member gravel which formed in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2023). The natural substrate encountered during previous archaeological works undertaken at the site

comprise orange-yellow gravel (CA 2022). The natural substrate, comprising compact yellow gravels, was only identified in Trenches 15-19 during the current works due to the limited depth of excavation undertaken.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The site has been the subject of numerous archaeological investigations (CA 2006, 2007a, 2007b, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015a, 2015b and 2021; Dunning 1976, Rubicon 2018, see Fig. 4), a geophysical survey (GSB 2004) and an Archaeological Impact and Mitigation Statement (CA 2022). What follows is a brief description of the results of these investigations.

Prehistoric

2.2. Greystones Farmyard lies within the well-preserved ramparts of the large Iron Age multivallate enclosure (*oppidum*) of Salmonsbury Camp (Scheduled Monument List Entry Number: 1017340). The geophysical survey has indicated that occupation of the site may have started in the Neolithic period, with a probable causewayed enclosure (GSB 2004). Anomalies that have been interpreted as possible Bronze Age ring-ditches have also been identified to the east and south of the causewayed enclosure (ibid). A further Bronze Age ring-ditch has been excavated immediately outside the western entrance to the *oppidum* and was found to have a central burial pit containing two dog skeletons (O'Neil 1977).

2.3. During archaeological excavation (CA 2015b) evidence of Middle to Late Iron Age occupation was recorded, primarily in the form of two groups of large circular grain storage pits, a short section of ditch and a posthole. The pottery assemblage was dated between c. 400/350 BC and the 1st centuries BC/AD. Two of the pits contained burials; an adult male (*c.* 33–46 years) and a child (*c.* 6–11 years). The presence of Middle to Late Iron Age ditches, postholes and a pit group containing inhumations were also recorded at the nearby Site IV by Dunning (1976), approximately 40m to the west of the farmyard, during a watching brief in the southern part of the farmyard. The ditches at Site IV represented a segmented drip gully surrounding 12 postholes around two-thirds of the possible roundhouse circumference. Two stone hearths outside of the roundhouse were also recorded (Dunning 1976).

Roman

2.4. Evidence for a small Roman town was recorded to the west of the hillfort between the Fosse Way and the enclosure. Within the hillfort evidence is more limited, consisting of pottery and coins.

2.5. During archaeological excavations for the New Milking Parlour, the upper fill of a large grain storage pit contained 3rd to 4th century pottery and a human cranium. This deposit was interpreted as the intentional backfilling of a depression within the top of the Iron Age pit (CA 2015b).

Medieval

2.6. Anglo-Saxon settlement appears to have been sited away from the hillfort enclosure, although it retained a significance in the landscape for other activities. In the Early Saxon period, pagan burials were inserted into the ramparts on the western and southern sides (Dunning 1976). In the Late Saxon period the hillfort was used as a hundredal meeting place, which was a local centre for trading, rural administration, and justice (CA 2022).

2.7. Archaeological investigations within the site, and the immediate environs, have not recorded any remains associated with the Anglo-Saxon period, or the later medieval period.

Post-medieval and Modern

2.8. The landscape to the north of the monument is occupied by water meadows and within the *oppidum* by fields, with the modern settlement of Bourton-on-the-Water encroaching on its western flank. The centre of the monument is occupied by Greystones Farmyard and disturbed soils, concrete and flag stone surfaces and postholes have all been encountered during archaeological works within the farmyard

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The general objectives of the watching brief were:

- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

3.2. A specific objective of the watching brief was to identify any further features or deposits associated with the previously recorded Iron Age storage pits and determine whether the pits extend to the west.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development (Figs. 2 and 3). These works comprised:

- the hand excavation of postholes and slot trenches for the installation of new gates (Trenches 1–14 and 17–21),
- the machine excavation of an enlargement of an existing soakaway (Trench 15),
- the machine excavation of a new manhole and associated drainage runs (Trench 16)
- machine excavation to remove an existing bridge and prepare the area for construction of a replacement bridge (Trench 22).

4.2. Records were maintained 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.

4.4. CA will make arrangements with Corinium Museum for the deposition of the project archive 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* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020).

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

5. RESULTS

5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.

5.2. Possible rampart material related to the Schedule Monument and modern footing wall was recorded that may represent remains of a boundary wall Gate Installation (Figs. 2 and 4)

Trenches 1-4

5.3. These trenches were located towards the eastern part of the site, along the line of the eastern enclosure ramparts and ditches. The trenches were excavated to depths of between 0.66m and 0.8m below present ground level (bpgl) without encountering the natural geological substrate. A stony orange-brown of possible rampart material was identified sealed by approximately 0.4m of modern topsoil in all of the trenches, with the exception of Trench 1, in which topsoil and subsoil or rampart material were indistinguishable. A thin deposit of gravel was recorded overlying the topsoil in each trench.

Trenches 5–10

5.4. These trenches were located in the north-western part of the scheduled area. They were excavated to depths of between 0.7m and 0.9m bpgl without encountering the natural geological substrate. Trenches 5, 6, 8 and 10 were located along one of the northern enclosure ramparts and the earliest layer encountered in each trench comprised a very stony deposit. The nature of this material remains unclear given the limited nature of the groundworks undertake, however it remains possible that it represents parts of the rampart associated with the Camp. In trenches 7 and 9 the earliest deposit encountered was clay silt subsoil. The subsoil and the observed stony deposit were sealed by an average of 0.2m of topsoil.

Trenches 12 and 13

5.5. These trenches were located in the south-eastern corner of the site, at the boundary with Cemetery Lane. The trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.6m bpgl without encountering the natural geological substrate. The footings of a north-west/south-east aligned wall, 1302 (see Fig. 4), were identified in Trench 13. The wall was constructed from large limestone slabs bonded by concrete. The use of concrete to bond the stones at the base of the footings appears to indicate a modern date of construction for the wall.

Trenches 11, 14 and 17–19

5.6. These trenches were located in the south-western part of the site, around the existing Greystones Farmyard. Trenches 11 and 14, located to the west of the farmyard, were excavated to 0.7m bpgl without encountering the natural geological substrate. In Trench 11 the subsoil, 1101, was overlain by a thin layer of topsoil, 1100, while in Trench 14 the topsoil was truncated away by a construction cut for the previous gate.

5.7. In Trenches 17–19, located to the east of the farmyard, the natural geological substrate, comprising yellow gravel, was encountered at a typical depth of 0.5m bpgl. This was overlain by up to 0.25m of subsoil, which was covered by a yellow gravel ground consolidation deposit. This was in turn sealed by up to 0.15m of topsoil that had built up around the existing fence lines.

Trenches 20 and 21

5.8. These trenches were located in the north-eastern part of the scheduled area, within the annex enclosure of the *oppidum*. Both trenches were located within low-lying, marshy areas and the rapid ingress of groundwater hampered clear observation. In Trench 20, stony material likely to be the natural geological substrate, 2002, was encountered at a depth of 0.65m bpgl. It was overlain by 0.5m of subsoil, 2001, which was in turn covered by a 0.15m thick deposit of topsoil, 2000. Trench 21 was excavated to a depth of 0.9m bpgl without encountering the natural geological substrate. An alluvial clay deposit, 2103, was encountered at 0.7m bpgl and was overlain by a dark peaty layer, 2102, measuring 0.3m in thickness, that was rich in organic material. This was overlain by 0.25m in thickness of gravel consolidation deposit, 2101, within the existing gateway, which was in turn covered by a layer of trample-derived topsoil, 2100.

Drainage (Figs. 2, 3 and 5)

5.9. Trench 15 was located in the eastern part of the existing farmyard and was excavated to enlarge an existing brick-lined soakaway. The majority of the trench revealed truncation caused by the previous installation of the soakaway, however stratigraphy was preserved around the southern and eastern margins of the trench. In these areas the natural geological substrate, 1503, was encountered at a depth of 0.5m bpgl. It was covered by 0.35m in thickness of orange-brown subsoil, 1502, which was in turn sealed by yellow gravel 1501, which represented the existing ground surface.

5.10. Trench 16 was located centrally within the existing farmyard and connected a new manhole at the south of the trench to two existing manholes at its northern end. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.45m bpgl for the majority of its length. The natural geological substrate, 1603, comprising yellow sand and gravel, was encountered intermittently and was not revealed over the full length of the trench, although it was more consistently exposed at the southern end of the trench. The natural substrate was sealed by orange-brown subsoil 1602, which was intermittently overlain by dark brown deposit 1601, containing frequent stone and charcoal inclusions. This was interpreted as a made-ground deposit of a relatively recent origin. The uppermost layer in the trench was concrete ground surface 1600.

Summer Walk Bridge (Figs. 2 & 6)

5.11. This trench was located at the eastern edge of the scheduled area, outside the annex enclosure of the *oppidum*. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m bpgl, which was the approximate depth of the stream bed, 2202. This was overlain by made-ground 2201 which comprised mixed stone and concrete rubble and represented infill and consolidation forming a bridge supporting two plastic culvert pipes and an iron pipe. The made ground was covered by a thin layer of turf, 2200.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1. During the excavation of the post-holes for the fencing a deposit of possible rampart material was observed. However, due the limit nature of the ground works, this can't be ascertained. A modern footing wall was recorded that may represent remains of a boundary wall.

6.2. Despite the archaeological potential of the Farmyard (see *Archaeological Background* above) no archaeological deposits were recorded in Trench 16 that may indicate that the Iron Age activity related to the grain storage pits identified in previous excavations does not extend to this area (Dunning 1976, CA 2015b, Rubicon 2018). However, it should be noted that the shallow depth of the drainage trenches meant that the natural substrate was not exposed along the full length of the trench, especially in the northern part of the trench, which was closest to the previous excavations.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Matt Coman, Christopher Leonard and Daniel Sausins. This report was written by Christopher Leonard. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Monica Fombellida.

8. REFERENCES

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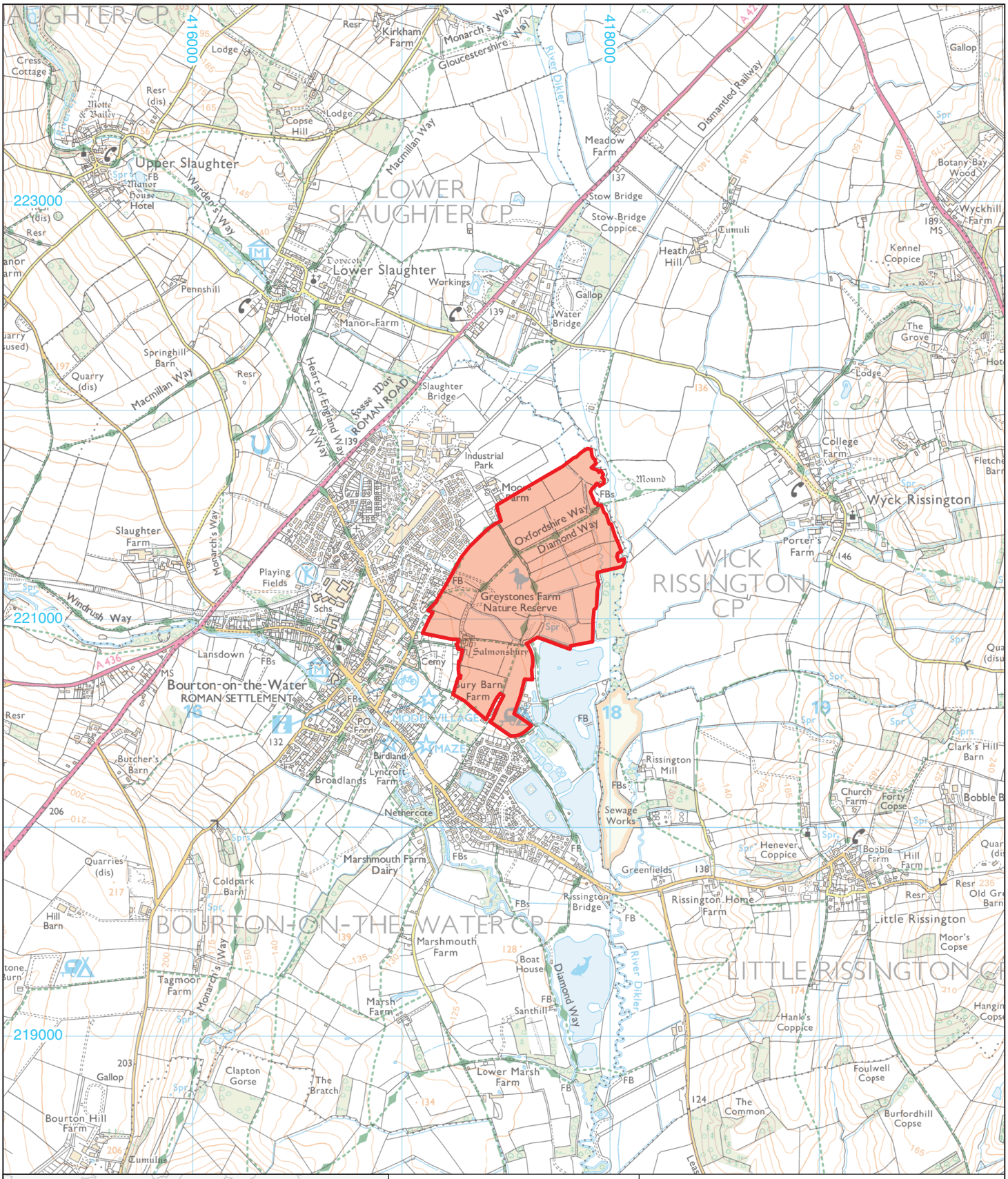
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	100	Layer		Surface	Modern ground surface. Yellow gravel			0.1
1	101	Layer		Topsoil	Dark orange brown sandy silt			0.65
2	200	Layer		Surface	Modern ground surface. Yellow gravel			0.1
2	201	Layer		Topsoil	Dark orange brown sandy silt			0.36
2	202	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt. Common stones			0.3
3	300	Layer		Surface	Modern ground surface. Yellow gravel			0.1
3	301	Layer		Topsoil	Dark orange brown sandy silt			0.4
3	302	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt. Common stones			0.4
4	400	Layer		Surface	Modern ground surface. Yellow gravel			0.1
4	401	Layer		Topsoil	Dark orange brown sandy silt			0.4
4	402	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt. Common stones			0.3
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt. Frequent limestone			0.8
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark orange brown silt. Common gravel			0.5
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown clay silt. Frequent limestone pieces			0.3
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt. Common limestones			0.2
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown clay silt. Common limestones			0.5
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt			0.2
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt. Common limestones			0.7
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark orange brown sandy silt			0.2
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown clay silt. Common limestones			0.7
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Modern ground surface. Stone rubble hardstanding			0.2
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Common limestones			0.7
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt. Common limestones			0.2
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Common limestones			0.5
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt			0.2
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Common stones			0.4
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt			0.2
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Common limestones			0.4
13	1302	Structure		Wall	Modern wall footings. Large limestone slabs set in concrete		0.3	0.3
14	1400	Cut		Construction Cut	Cut for modern farmyard gate		1.8	0.5
14	1401	Structure		Gate	Modern iron swing gate			
14	1402	Fill	1400	Fill of construction cut	Loose stone chippings and reworked yellow brown clay silt		1.8	0.5
14	1403	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt. Common limestones			0.5
15	1500	Layer		Surface	Gravel ground surface			0.15
15	1501	Layer		Made ground	Mid grey brown sandy silt. Frequent stone rubble			0.3
15	1502	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Occasional stones			0.05
15	1503	Layer		Natural	Yellow sand and gravel			
16	1600	Layer		Surface	Modern ground surface. Mixed yellow gravel and concrete slab			0.25
16	1601	Layer		Made ground	Dark brown grey sandy silt. Frequent stones, occasional charcoal			0.12
16	1602	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Common stones			0.1
16	1603	Layer		Natural	Yellow sand and gravel			
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt			0.14
17	1701	Layer		Surface	Modern ground surface. Wood chippings over yellow gravel			0.1
17	1702	Layer		Buried soil	Mid orange brown sandy silt			0.24
17	1703	Layer		Natural	Yellow sand and gravel			
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt			0.13
18	1801	Layer		Surface	Modern ground surface. Wood chippings over yellow gravel			0.1
18	1802	Layer		Buried soil	Mid orange brown sandy silt			0.16
18	1803	Layer		Natural	Yellow sand and gravel			
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt			0.05
19	1901	Layer		Surface	Modern ground surface. Wood chippings over yellow gravel			0.1
19	1902	Layer		Buried soil	Mid orange brown sandy silt			0.25
19	1903	Layer		Natural	Yellow sand and gravel			
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt			0.15
20	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt			0.5
20	2002	Layer		Natural	Yellow sand and gravel			
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt			0.15
21	2101	Layer		Made ground	Gravel ground consolidation			0.25

Trench	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
21	2102	Layer		Buried soil	Dark orange brown humic peaty deposit			0.6
21	2103	Layer		Alluvium	Orange brown clay silt			
22	2200	Layer		Topsoil	Turf			0.05
22	2201	Layer		Made ground	Concrete and stone rubble			0.35
22	2202	Layer		Alluvium	Stream bed gravel			0.05

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Greystones Farm	
Short description	In June–August 2022 and May–June 2023, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of new drainage, replacement of gates and reconstruction of a bridge at Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire. Possible rampart material related to the Salmonsbury Camp, and modern footing wall, that may represent remains of a boundary wall Gate Installation, were recorded during the monitored groundworks.	
Project dates	15 June–11 August 2022 and 22 May–1 June 2023	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2005) Heritage Impact Assessment (CA 2022) Geophysical Survey (GSB 2004) Watching briefs (CA 2007, CA 2010, CA 2012) Evaluations (CA 2006, CA 2007, CA 2009, CA 2013, CA 2015) Excavations (Dunning 1976, O'Neil 1977, CA 2015, Rubicon 2018)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire	
Study area (m^2/ha)	29ha	
Site co-ordinates	417319 220899	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Historic England/ Cotswold District Council	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Monica Fombellida	
Project Supervisor	Matt Coman	
MONUMENT TYPE	Enclosed Oppidum	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	**Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)**	**Content:**
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench recording forms, photographic registers
Digital	Corinium Museum Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2023 *Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief* CA typescript report **CR1090_1**		



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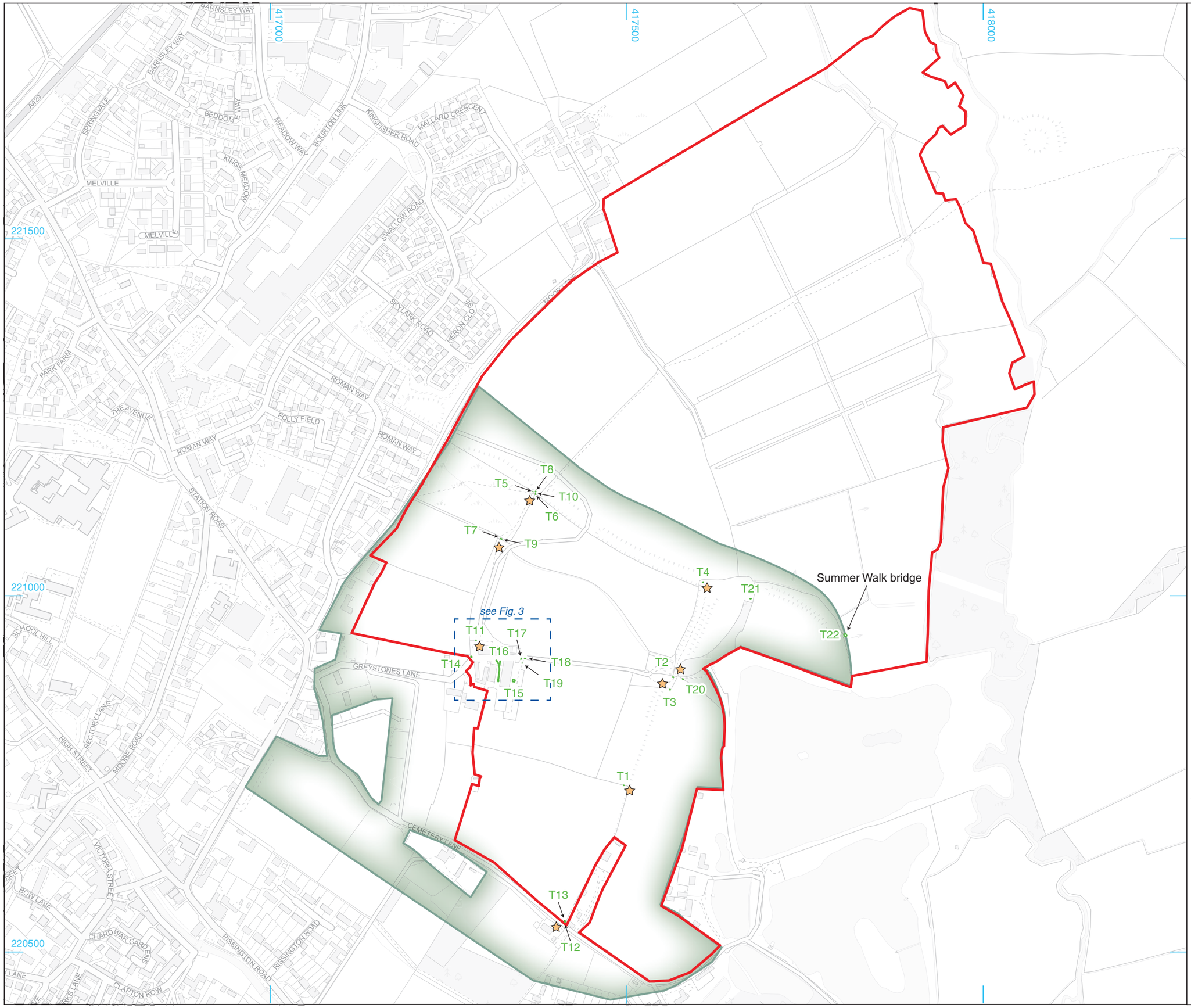
PROJECT TITLE

Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1090**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**05/06/2023**	**1**
APPROVED BY	**MF**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	



N

Site boundary
Monitored groundwork
Scheduled monument
Gate installation

0 1:5000 250m

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PROJECT TITLE

Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

The site, showing monitored groundworks and scheduled monument area

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1090**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**05/06/2023**	**2**
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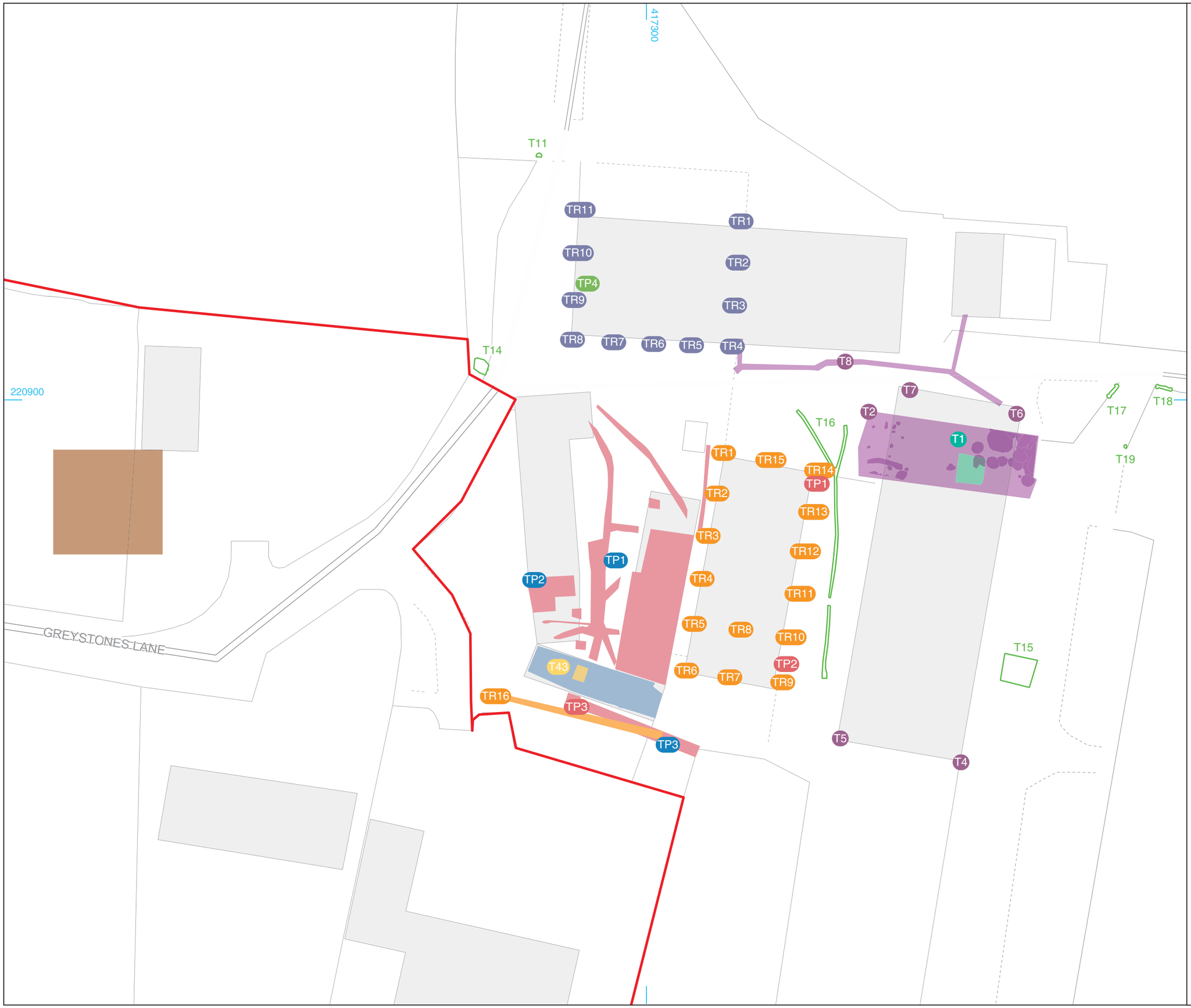

N

Site boundary

Monitored groundwork

Previous investigations:

- Investigation A (CA 2006)
- Investigation B (CA 2007a)
- Investigation C (CA 2007b)
- Investigation D (CA 2009)
- Investigation E (CA 2009)
- Investigation F (CA 2009)
- Investigation G (CA 2009)
- Investigation H (CA 2009)
- Investigation I (Rubicon 2018)
- Investigation J (Rubicon 2018)
- Dunning Site IV (1931-1934)

0 1:500 25m

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PROJECT TITLE

Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan, showing monitored groundworks and previous archaeological works

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1090**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**05/06/2023**	**3**
APPROVED BY	**MF**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:500**	

Trench 10, post-excavation, looking south (0.4m scale)

Trench 13, wall footings 1302, looking south-east (0.4m scale)

Trench 18, post-excavation, looking south-west

General view of gates in Trench 21, after installation, looking east

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Gate installation trenches: photographs

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APPROVED BY	**MF**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

Trench 15, post-excavation, looking north-east (1m scale)

Trench 16, during excavation, showing stratigraphy, looking south-west

Trench 16, northern section post-excavation, looking north-east

Trench 16, southern section post-excavation, looking north

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FIGURE TITLE

Drainage trenches: photographs

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Trench 22, pre-excavation, looking south-east

Trench 22, during excavation, showing depth of made ground 2201, looking north-west

Trench 22, post-excavation, looking west (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Summer Walk bridge: photographs

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