

**Lucombe House  
Condicote  
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

*for*

**Mr David Elliot**


CA Project: 3282  
CA Report: 11216

September 2011

Lucombe House  
Condicote  
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3282  
CA Report: 11216

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date	15 September 2011
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signed	
date	28 September 2011
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Lucombe House
<b>Location:</b>	Condicote, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 1530 2832
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	31 August to 6 September 2011
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	P/APP/F1610/A/97/208924/P9
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Corinium Museum, Cirencester
<b>Site Code:</b>	LUB11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the extension of the current property at Lucombe House, Condicote, Gloucestershire.

Evidence for limestone quarrying, probably commencing in the medieval period, was observed in the western half of the site. Along with significant modern landscaping, this quarrying is likely to have removed, if at all present, any earlier archaeological deposits associated with the adjacent henge monument.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August and September 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr David Elliot at Lucombe House, Condicote, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 1530 2832; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent granted by Cotswold District Council (CDC) for the extension of the current property (Planning ref: P/APP/F1610/A/97/208924/P9). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011) that was approved by CDC acting on the advice of Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Field work in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The development area was approximately 72m<sup>2</sup> and comprised a lawned garden on a steep, easterly gradient with modern concrete retaining walls along its western edge. The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Chipping Norton Limestone Formation (BGS 2011), and was observed throughout the eastern extent of the development area.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.4 The site lies immediately outside of a Scheduled Monument (GC 140: Condicote Earthwork), believed to be representative of a henge monument. The monument has

largely been eroded by plough damage, consequently upstanding remains are very limited. Aerial photographic evidence suggests that the monument comprises two broadly circular and concentric ditches with a bank between them. No entrances have been accurately defined, although an interruption to the inner ditch at its southern limit is visible (Saville 1983).

- 1.5 Previous archaeological interventions within, or close to, the henge have been limited. Two small areas within the interior were excavated in 1977 approximately 75m north-east of the current development area, revealing the inner ditch and fragmentary remains of the bank (ibid). Two radiocarbon dates obtained from lower fills of the ditch were broadly contemporary at 1770 BC and 1720 BC. The identified stratigraphic sequence suggested that up to 1m of modern material had accumulated within the upper limit of the ditch. The associated bank, comprising re-deposited limestone sealing an original ground surface, was only partially excavated.

### **Methodology**

- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising ground reduction and excavation of shallow foundation trenches, see Fig. 2 for location and extent.
- 1.7 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.8 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 Corinium Museum along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.



## 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 Natural limestone brash 103, in a yellow brown sand matrix was revealed throughout the eastern part of the site at an average depth of 0.68m below present ground level (bpgl). It was truncated by a north - south aligned quarry pit 109. The quarried edge followed the strata of the natural limestone and in places was significantly undercut along its length. It was filled by loose limestone rubble 108, in a grey - brown silty sand matrix from which 39 sherds of pottery dating to the 12th century were recovered.
- 2.2 The quarry was cut by a later pit / quarry 110, to the west which may represent further and later quarrying. Evidence of in situ burning was identified, notably on the base which was discoloured through exposure to heat. The lowest fill of this feature, 111, comprised burnt angular limestone fragments in burnt grey sand and displayed evidence of the on-set of vitrification. It was overlain by dumped upper fill, 112.
- 2.3 Both quarry pits were cut by small undated pit 113, which in turn was truncated by modern terrace 107, the fill of which contained modern finds. The south western part of the development area had previously been truncated by modern landscaping. The un-quarried natural substrate was sealed by subsoil 102, which in turn was overlain by topsoil 101 from which residual sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved.

### *The Finds*

- 2.4 The recovered artefactual material is presented in Appendix B. The majority of material, including quantities of animal bone, was derived from quarry pit feature 109 (fill 108) and from buried soil deposit 101.

### *Pottery*

- 2.5 A total of 60 sherds of medieval pottery (774g) were recovered. Two unglazed coarseware fabrics were recorded; an oolitic limestone-tempered type, common across the Cotswolds in the 11th to 13th centuries and a sandy type, possibly from the Worcester area and likely dating to the 12th to 14th centuries. The latter type is present from quarry fill 108 as 20 sherds from a single vessel, a jar with complex rim. This vessel exhibits heavy sooting to its outside and a white limey internal residue which suggests use for heating water. Vessel forms in the Cotswolds fabric include a jar with simple, everted rim from topsoil 101 and two jars with 'clubbed'

rim, from quarry 108. Clubbed rim forms are commonly a component from 12th century groups from the area.

- 2.6 Modern pottery, consisting of two sherds in a hard, unglazed red earthenware 'flowerpot' type fabric were recorded from made ground deposit 106.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The volume of 12th-century pottery recovered from the infilling of quarry pit 109 suggests the area was being used to source limestone in the medieval period. It is likely the stone was being used for construction in Condicote and other nearby settlements. The later pit, which cut the quarry to the west and showed evidence of intense in-situ burning, may represent a continuation of quarrying into the post medieval period but no dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

- 3.2 Despite the archaeological potential of the development area, no archaeological remains associated with the adjacent scheduled monument were observed. The absence of archaeological deposits related to the henge may indicate that such remains do not extend as far as, or were not exposed by, the current development, or that they may have been removed during medieval quarrying and/or modern garden landscaping. However, it is noteworthy that no archaeological deposits were observed in the eastern part of the area which is in closer proximity to the monument and had not been subject to either medieval quarrying or modern truncation. The large quantity of residual pottery dating to the 12th to 13th centuries recovered from the topsoil further evidences domestic activity in the area in the medieval period.

### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Charlotte Haines. The report was written by Charlotte Haines. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Charlotte Haines, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.





## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 Geology of Britain Viewer  
[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed February  
2011

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Lucombe House, Condicote, Gloucestershire: Written  
Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Saville, A. 1983 *Excavations at Condicote Henge Monument, Gloucestershire, 1977* TBGAS  
**101**, 21-47



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Area 1

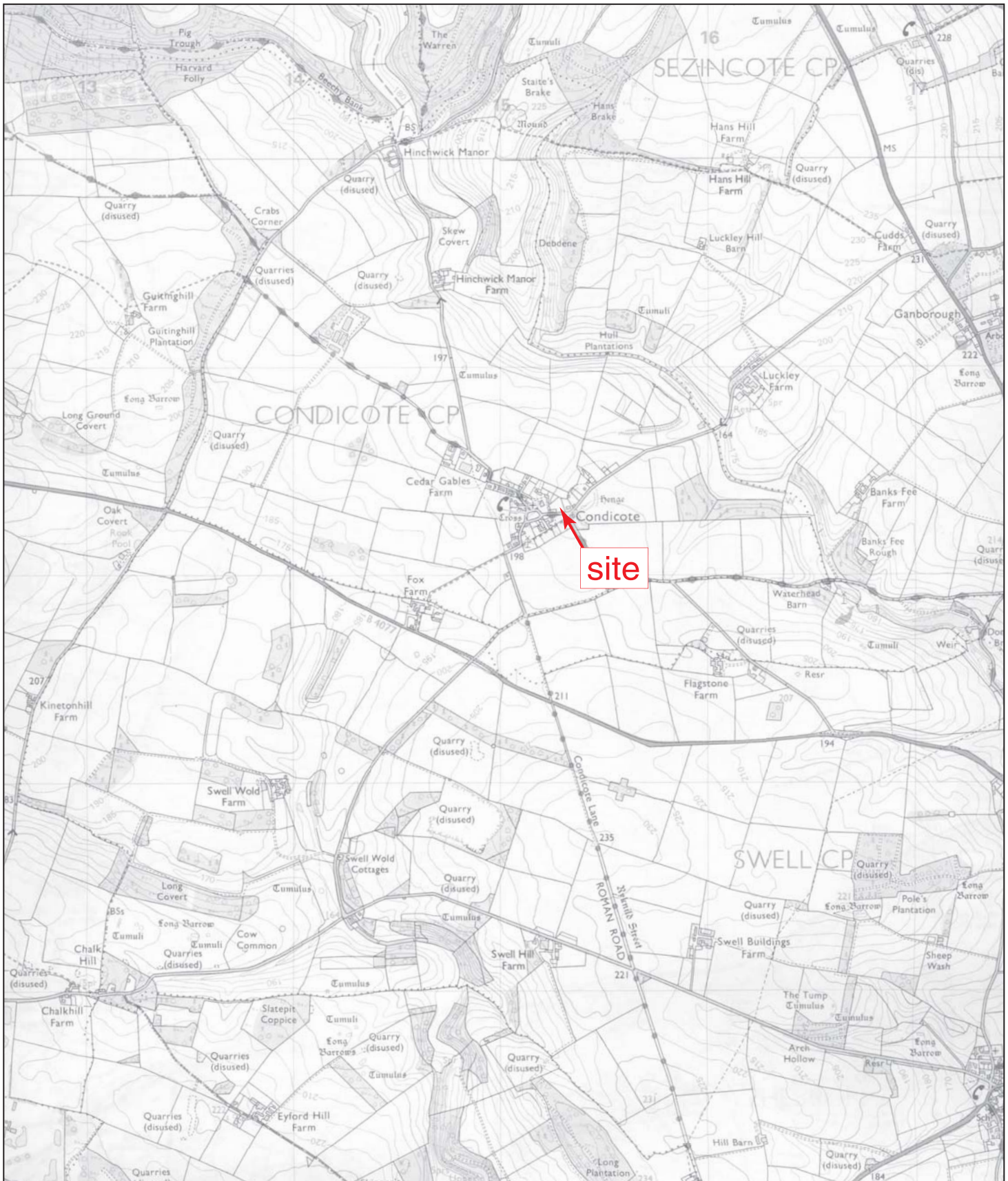
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Garden topsoil / turf, dark brown silty sand	>12.00	>6.00	0.15	Modern
101	Layer	Buried topsoil,	>12.00	>2.24	0.23	C12-C13
102	Layer	Subsoil,	>12.00	>2.40	0.40	
103	Layer	Natural substrate,				
104	Cut	Construction cut for 105	12.00	0.50	2.00	
105	Masonry	Concrete retaining wall	12.00	0.50	2.00	
106	Deposit	Made ground	>5.80	>3.40	0.52	Modern
107	Cut	Landscaping, horizontal truncation of site	>5.80	>3.40	0.52	Modern
108	Deposit	Fill of 109, Loose light greyish brown silty sand with very frequent medium and large limestone rubble	>6.00	1.56	0.96	C12?
109	Cut	N-S aligned probable quarrying	>6.00	1.56	0.96	
110	Cut	Possible pit	>3.00	>1.50	>0.92	
111	Fill	Basal fill of 110, burnt natural limestone and sand	>3.00	>1.50	0.58	
112	Fill	Dumped upper fill of 110, dark brown silty sand with occasional burnt limestone		>1.30	0.41	
113	Cut	Small possible pit	>1.22		0.51	
114	Fill	Basal fill of 113, light brown silty sand	0.78		0.11	
115	Fill	Dumped upper fill of 113, limestone rubble in a silty sand matrix	>1.24		0.38	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
101	Medieval pottery: Cotswolds limestone-tempered; unglazed sandy coarseware	21	164	C12-C13
	Animal bone	10	107	
106	Modern pottery: 'flowerpot'	2	118	C19-C20
	Animal bone:	2	10	
108	Medieval pottery: Cotswolds limestone-tempered; unglazed sandy coarseware	39	610	C12
	Animal bone	10	104	
111	Animal bone	1	17	-

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Lucombe House, Condicote	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the extension of the current property at Lucombe House, Condicote, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Evidence for limestone quarrying, probably commencing in the medieval period, was observed in the western half of the site. Along with significant modern landscaping, this quarrying is likely to have removed, if at all present, any earlier archaeological deposits associated with the adjacent henge monument.</p>	
Project dates	31 August 2011 – 6 September 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Lucombe House, Condicote, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	72m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates	SP 1530 2832	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Charlotte Haines	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Location	Content
Physical	Corinium Museum	Ceramics, animal bone
Paper	Corinium Museum	Context sheets, Drawings, Photographs
Digital	Corinium Museum	Survey data, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Lucombe House, Condicote, Gloucestershire: An Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report <b>11216</b></p>		



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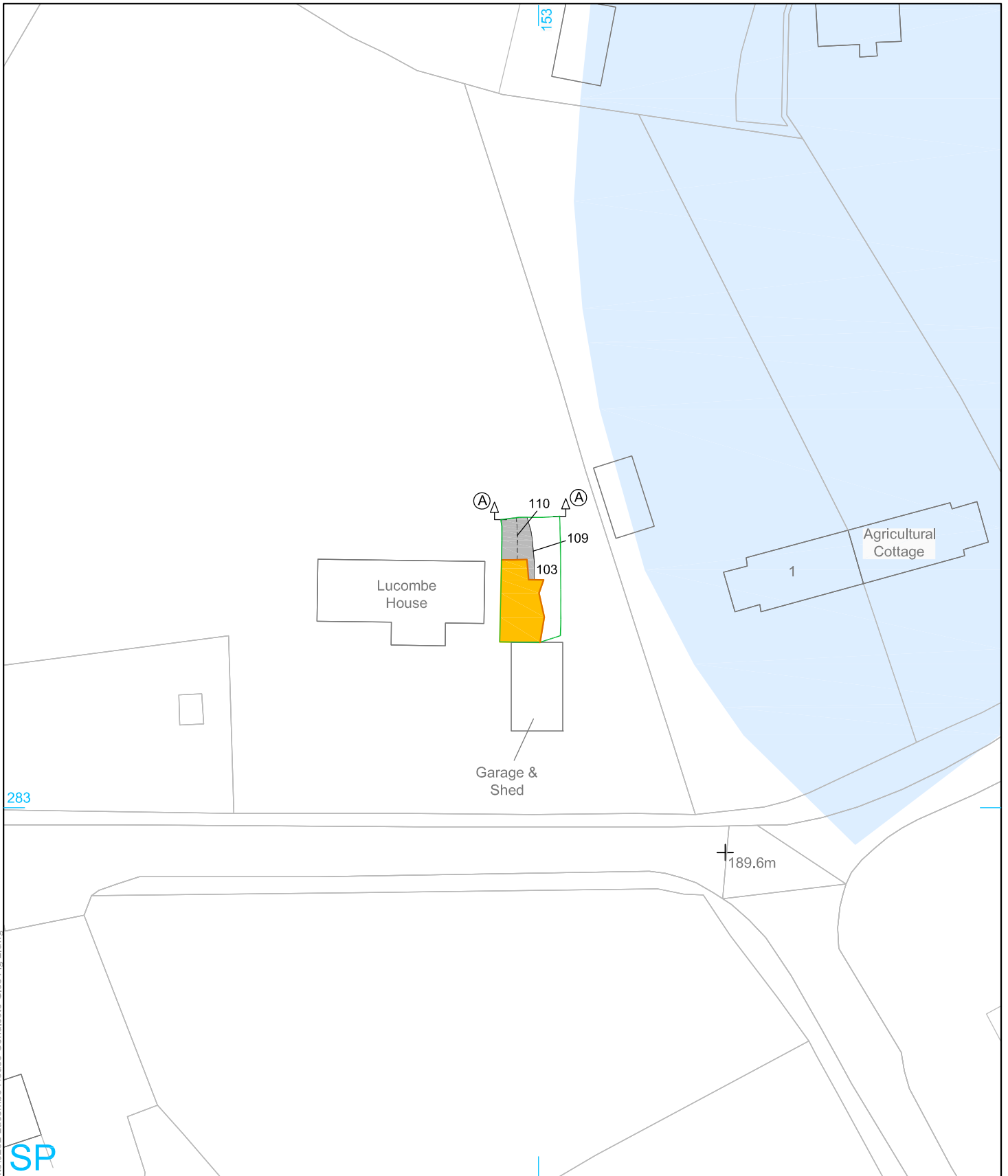
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
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Lucombe House, Condicot  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 3282	<b>DATE</b> 12-09-2011	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>DRAWN BY</b> JB	<b>REVISION</b> 00	
<b>APPROVED BY</b> PJM	<b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:25,000	<b>1</b>



-  site
-  area of observed groundworks
-  archaeological feature
-  modern
-  Scheduled Monument  
(GC140 Condricote Earthwork)



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PROJECT TITLE

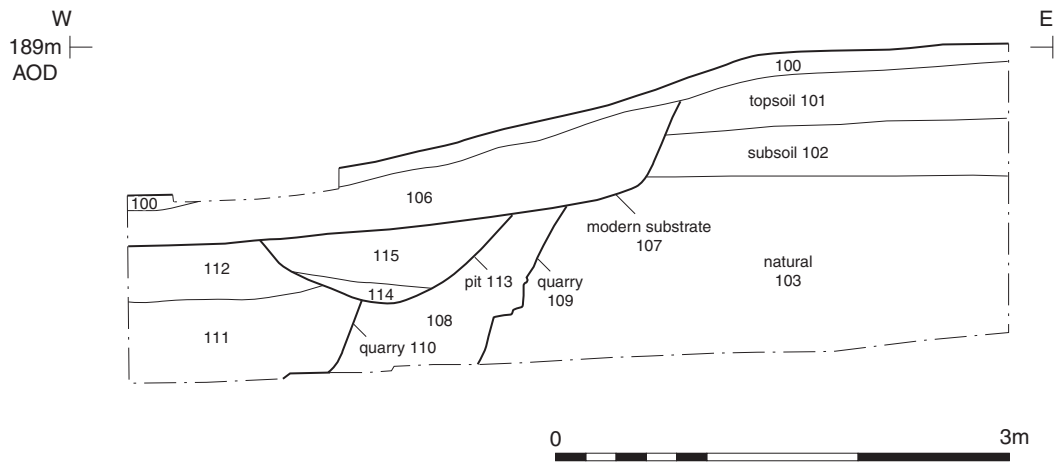
Lucombe House, Condricote  
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Location of observed groundworks,  
showing archaeological features**



Section AA



View of quarry features 109 and 110, looking north (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

**Section and photograph**

PROJECT NO. 3282 DATE 12-09-2011  
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 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:50

FIGURE NO.

**3**



General working shot looking south towards garage



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

**Photograph**

PROJECT NO. 3282 DATE 12-09-2011  
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APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 n/a

FIGURE NO.

**4**