

**Land off Majors Road  
Watchfield  
Oxfordshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**



*for*  
**Boyer Planning**


CA Project: 3648  
CA Report: 11311

December 2011

Land off Majors Road  
Watchfield  
Oxfordshire

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CA Project: 3648  
CA Report: 11311

prepared by	Mark Brett; Senior Project Officer
date	9 December 2011
checked by	Cliff Bateman; Project Manager
date	12 December 2011
approved by	Simon Cox; Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	13 December 2011
issue	01

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Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features (1:1000)  
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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Land off Majors Road  
**Location:** Watchfield, Oxfordshire  
**NGR:** SU 2472 9052  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 5-8 December 2011  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service  
**Site Code:** MRW 11

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2011 on land off Majors Road, Watchfield, Oxfordshire. Sixteen trenches were excavated.

No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Boyer Planning on land off Majors Road, Watchfield, Oxfordshire (centred on NGR: SU 2472 9052; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in support of an application for planning permission for residential development at the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (OCC 2011) prepared by Mr Hugh Coddington, Acting County Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Council, the archaeological advisor to the Vale of White Horse District Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2011a) that was approved by Mr Coddington. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Mr Coddington, including a site visit on 7 December 2011.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is approximately 3.7ha and is located to the south of Majors Road and comprises a single field of rough grassland to the east of the village of Watchfield (Fig. 2). The foundations of buildings and the remains of a road associated with the former Watchfield airfield are extant within the site. The site slopes generally from north-east to south-west, from a height of approximately 105m above ordnance datum (AOD) to 100m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying mapped solid geology of the area varies from ferruginous sandstone in the eastern part of the site, mudstone of the Ampthill Clay Formation in the central part and limestone of the Stanford Formation in the western part (BGS 2011). The natural geological horizon was exposed within each trench and broadly corresponded with that mapped.



### **Archaeological background**

- 1.5 A Heritage Desk-Based Assessment previously undertaken for the proposed development site recorded activity dating from the Palaeolithic to the modern period within the immediate vicinity (CA 2011b).
- 1.6 Palaeolithic flint has previously been recorded to the east of the site. The material was not *in situ* and there is currently no evidence for associated material to survive within the proposed development area. Concentrations of Mesolithic flint, representing possible foci of activity, have been recorded to the east and north-east of the site, as have Neolithic/Bronze Age features. There is some evidence to suggest that early prehistoric activity was focused on the slightly higher ground to the north-east/east of the site (*ibid.*).
- 1.7 An enclosed Early to Middle Iron Age settlement has also been identified to the east and north east of the site. Contemporary ditches were recorded within the excavations immediately to the east (Birbeck 2002) and their alignment suggests that associated features might extend into the proposed development area (see Fig. 2 for locations and extent). The foci of the Iron Age, and subsequent Romano-British, settlement is believed to be outside the current site (*ibid.*).
- 1.8 Watchfield Anglo-Saxon cemetery is located c. 85m north-east of the site. The limits of the cemetery have been defined and there is no evidence for associated features within the current site. During the medieval period the site is likely to have formed part of the agricultural hinterland to Watchfield. Ridge and furrow earthworks, of probable post-medieval date, are extant within the site (*ibid.*).
- 1.9 The footings of buildings and remains of a road associated with Watchfield World War II airfield are extant within the site, but are considered to be heritage assets of negligible significance (*ibid.*).

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.10 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed development. This information will assist Oxfordshire County Council Archaeology Services in

making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of any future proposed developments.

### **Methodology**

- 1.11 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 16 trenches (1-16, each 30m in length and up to 1.8m wide), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 12 was moved approximately 6m to the west-south-west due to the presence of a buried service. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2011).
- 1.12 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* (2007).
- 1.13 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* (2003) and no deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefacts were recovered during the current works.
- 1.14 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service. 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.

## **2. RESULTS**

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.



- 2.2 A similar stratigraphic sequence was observed in all of the trenches; the natural substrate was sealed by a layer of subsoil, measuring between 0.15m and 0.5m in thickness, which in turn was sealed by the existing topsoil, up to 0.5m thick.
- 2.3 Extant ridge and furrow earthworks were present throughout the site however within the trenches the furrows were largely indistinguishable from the subsoil.
- 2.4 Possible archaeological features were identified within Trenches 1, 4 and 12 (features 103, 404 and 1203 respectively) however investigation of these anomalies established that they were all geological in origin.
- 2.5 Modern land drains were identified within a number of trenches (2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 16) and a metal pipe was exposed within Trench 9. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the proposed development area (see archaeological background above), the evaluation identified no archaeological remains. The paucity of archaeological deposits within the current site suggests that the activity previously recorded to the north, north-east and east of the site is most probably limited to the locally higher ground.
- 3.2 The presence of extant ridge and furrow throughout the site and the relative paucity of any underground services and modern truncation indicates that disturbance associated with the World War II airfield was not extensive and that if archaeological features or deposits were present on the site they would be readily identifiable.

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

Fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Brett, assisted by Izabela Romanowska and Tom Weavill. The report was written by Mark Brett and the illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Mark Brett 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/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 7 December 2011
- Birbeck, V. 2002 'Excavations at Watchfield, Shrivenham, Oxfordshire, 1998, in *Oxoniensia* **66**, 221-288
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology ) 2011a *Land off Majors Road, Watchfield, Oxfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
- CA 2011b *Land at Majors Road, Watchfield, Oxfordshire: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*. CA typescript report **11238**
- OCC (Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services) 2011 *Land off Majors Road, Watchfield, Oxon: Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation*



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

105.88m-106.03m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
100	Layer	Topsoil.			0.28
101	Layer	Subsoil.			0.26
102	Layer	Natural substrate. Yellowish orange sand. Compact.			N/K
103	Cut	E/W aligned anomaly. Geological.	>1.8	1.12	>0.65
104	Fill	Mid brownish grey sandy clay. Natural deposit.			>0.65

## Trench 2

105.59m-105.89m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
200	Layer	Topsoil.			0.48
201	Layer	Subsoil.			0.35
202	Layer	Natural substrate. Yellowish orange sand. Compact.			N/K

## Trench 3

104.2m-105.16m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
300	Layer	Topsoil.			0.3
301	Layer	Subsoil.			0.5
302	Layer	Natural substrate. Yellowish orange sand. Compact.			N/K

## Trench 4

103.7m-104.86m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
400	Layer	Topsoil.			0.25
401	Layer	Subsoil.			0.37
402	Layer	Natural substrate. Mid greyish blue clay with orangey brown patches. Stiff.			N/K
403	Fill	Fill of 404. Mid orangey brown sandy clay.			0.1
404	Cut	Natural linear anomaly.	>1	0.6	0.1

## Trench 5

104.31m-105.13m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
500	Layer	Topsoil.			0.38
501	Layer	Subsoil.			0.52
502	Layer	Natural substrate. Yellowish orange sand. Compact.			N/K

## Trench 6

101.6m-102.21m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
600	Layer	Topsoil.			0.26
601	Layer	Subsoil.			0.26
602	Layer	Natural substrate. Light yellowish grey clay. Stiff.			N/K

## Trench 7

101.19m-102.94m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
700	Layer	Topsoil.			0.24
701	Layer	Subsoil.			0.24
702	Layer	Natural substrate. Light yellowish grey clay. Stiff.			N/K

## Trench 8

102.4m-102.43m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
800	Layer	Topsoil.			0.27
801	Layer	Subsoil.			0.39
802	Layer	Natural substrate. At SE end of trench: mid brownish orange sand. Compact. At NW end of trench: mid reddish grey clay. Stiff.			N/K

## Trench 9

100.64m-101.41m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
900	Layer	Topsoil.			0.2
901	Layer	Subsoil.			0.17
902	Layer	Natural substrate. Mid greyish yellow clay. Stiff.			N/K

## Trench 10

100.21m-100.79m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1000	Layer	Topsoil.			0.25
1001	Layer	Subsoil.			0.4
1002	Layer	Natural substrate. At ESE end of trench: dark reddish brown sandy clay with limestone brash. Compact. At WNW end of trench: mid orangey brown sandy clay. Stiff.			N/K
1003	Fill	Fill of 1004. Dark greyish brown silty clay.			
1004	Cut	Furrow. Shallow. Aligned NE/SW.	>1	>0.9	0.1

## Trench 11

100.33m-100.5m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1100	Layer	Topsoil.			0.24
1101	Layer	Subsoil.			0.26
1102	Layer	Natural substrate. Dark greyish orange clay. Stiff.			N/K

## Trench 12

99.74m-100.82m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1200	Layer	Topsoil.			0.27
1201	Layer	Subsoil.			0.23
1202	Layer	Natural substrate. Mid greyish orange clay. Stiff.			N/K
1203	Cut	Natural circular hollow.	0.8	0.8	0.1
1204	Fill	Light orangey brown sandy clay. Stiff.			0.1

## Trench 13

99.76m-100.63m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1300	Layer	Topsoil.			0.25
1301	Layer	Subsoil.			0.52
1302	Layer	Natural substrate at ENE end of trench. Mid greyish yellow and orange clay. Stiff.			N/K
1302	Layer	Natural substrate at WSW end of trench. Limestone brash. Compact.			N/K

## Trench 14

99.45m-99.98m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1400	Layer	Topsoil.			0.28
1401	Layer	Subsoil.			0.32
1402	Layer	Natural substrate. Limestone brash. Compact.			N/K

## Trench 15

99.47m-99.86m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1500	Layer	Topsoil.			0.25
1501	Layer	Subsoil.			0.4
1502	Layer	Natural substrate. Limestone brash. Compact.			N/K

## Trench 16

99.6m-99.86m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1600	Layer	Topsoil.			0.26
1601	Layer	Subsoil.			0.24
1602	Layer	Natural substrate at SE end of trench. Mid greyish yellow and orange clay. Stiff.			N/K
1603	Layer	Natural substrate at NW end of trench. Limestone brash. Compact.			N/K

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land off Majors Road Watchfield Oxfordshire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2011 on land off Majors Road, Watchfield, Oxfordshire. Sixteen trenches were excavated.  No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.	
Project dates	5-8 December 2011	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Heritage Desk Based Assessment (CA 2011). CA typescript report <b>11238</b>	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land off Majors Road, Watchfield, Oxfordshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	3.7ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 2472 9052	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Mark Brett	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Oxfordshire County Museums Service	Context sheets, trench recording forms, permatrace drawings, photographic registers.
Digital	Oxfordshire County Museums Service	Digital photographs.
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Land off Majors Road, Watchfield, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>11311</b>		

**APPENDIX C COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE, OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL; DESIGN BRIEF FOR FIELD EVALUATION**

# Land off Majors Road, Watchfield, Oxon

## Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation

### 1. **SUMMARY OF BRIEF:**

- 1.1 This brief provides the outline framework on which a detailed specification of work should be based. It is advisable that archaeological organisations forward the specification to the County Archaeological Officer or his representative for validation before submitting costed proposals to the agency commissioning the evaluation. The first 4 sections of this brief deal specifically with this particular case. Annex 1-5 provides the archaeological contractor with a procedural framework outlining general good practice and requirements pertaining to all archaeological evaluation projects carried out in Oxfordshire.
- 1.2 The site of proposed development is within an area of considerable archaeological potential. Previous archaeological investigations in the area have shown that there has been activity here since the earlier prehistoric period. As such an archaeological field evaluation has been required to further investigate the presence of archaeological features within the area and to provide a basis to determine an appropriate mitigation strategy.
- 1.3 The evaluation will aim to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological deposits within the area affected by invasive development. This evidence will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate mitigation measures that may seek to limit the damage to significant archaeological deposits, and should aim to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further investigation be required. The evaluation will include any post-excavation work and publication requirements resulting from it. A charge of £50 will be made for the preparation of this brief.

### 2. **BACKGROUND:**

#### 2.1 **Site Location and Description**

- 2.1.1 The area of proposed development is located to the south of Majors Road, Watchfield (NGR SU24729052). The area, measuring approximately 3.7 hectares is currently rough grassland with the foundations of buildings and a road that formed part of a WWII airfield still visible. It lies at approximately 100m OD. The geology is complicated, the eastern part comprises of ferruginous sandstone, the central part of mudstone of the amphill clay formation and the western part of Stanford formation limestone.



## 2.2 **Planning Background**

- 2.2.1 The area is currently being considered for housing development although to date a planning application has not been submitted. An archaeological desk based assessment has been undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology that succinctly outlines the archaeological potential of the site (CA 2011 Land at Majors Road, Watchfield. A Heritage Desk Based Assessment). Due to the potential presence of archaeological features a archaeological field evaluation has been requested to assist the assessment of the site in line with PPS5 HE6.1. This brief outlines our requirements for the evaluation.

## 2.3 **Archaeological Background**

- 2.3.1 This is outlined in the Cotswold Archaeology Heritage Desk Based Assessment.

## 3. **REQUIREMENT FOR WORK:**

- 3.1 This field evaluation has been required in accordance with PPS 5 because of the presence of known sites of archaeological interest within the immediate vicinity of the development. Should important archaeological remains be revealed, this evaluation will form the first stage of a mitigation procedure.
- 3.2 The evaluation should aim to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within those areas affected. The evaluation report produced will present a digest of information on the character and significance of the deposits under review and this report will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate further action. The evaluation should also aim to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.
- 3.3 Any mitigation resulting from the evaluation report will seek to limit the damage to significant archaeological deposits. The developer will be responsible for accommodating the archaeological remains by:-
- a) Physical preservation in situ, which can often be achieved through design adaptations, or, if this is not possible;
  - b) By preserving the archaeology on record through a full recording action. Less significant archaeological deposits may be dealt with through a monitoring and recording exercise carried out during the construction programme.

## 4. **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS EVALUATION:**

- 4.1 A trenching sample equivalent to sixteen 30 x 1.5metre trenches will be undertaken across the site. This should identify whether archaeological features extend into the area from the east and the three geological areas. A trench layout plan should be approved prior to the trenching being undertaken. Provision should be made for taking environmental/organic samples where appropriate.
- 4.2 The excavation under the supervision of a competent archaeologist, is to be taken down to the top of 'natural' or the top of any significant archaeological level,

whichever is the higher. While the surface of the exposed archaeological horizon should be cleaned for the purpose of clarifying the remains, archaeological features should generally only be sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them. Full excavation of features should not be undertaken at this stage. Care should be taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.

**Hugh Coddington**

Acting County Archaeologist

15<sup>th</sup> November 2011

## APPENDIX D: COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY; WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

**Land off Majors Road  
Watchfield  
Oxfordshire**

Written Scheme of Investigation for an  
Archaeological Evaluation




*for*  
**Boyer Planning**

November 2011

# Land off Majors Road Watchfield Oxfordshire

## Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

prepared by	Cliff Bateman; Project Manager
date	22 November 2011
approved by	Cliff Bateman; Project Manager
signed	
date	22 November 2011
issue	01

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out details of a written scheme of investigation (WSI) by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) for an archaeological evaluation on land off Majors Road, Watchfield, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR: SU 2472 9052) at the request of Boyer Planning.
- 1.2 An archaeological evaluation has been requested by Hugh Coddington (Oxfordshire County Council's Acting County Archaeologist) prior to an application for planning permission to residential development at the site.
- 1.3 This WSI has been guided in its composition by the *Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (OCC 2011), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006) and any other relevant standards or guidance contained within Appendix B.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is approximately 3.7ha in size and is located to the south of Majors Road. It comprises a single field of rough grassland to the east of the village of Watchfield. The foundations of buildings and the remains of a road associated with the former Watchfield airfield are extant within the site.
- 2.2 The proposed development area lies at approximately 100m OD. The underlying geology is variable geology and comprises ferruginous sandstone in the east, mudstone of the Amptill Clay Formation in the central area, with Stanford Formation limestone to the west (BGS 2011).
- 2.3 A Heritage Desk-Based Assessment previously undertaken for the proposed development site recorded activity dating from the Palaeolithic to the modern period within the immediate vicinity (CA 2011).
- 2.4 Palaeolithic flint was previously been recorded to the east of the site. The material was not *in situ* and there is currently no evidence for associated material to survive

within the proposed development area. Concentrations of Mesolithic flint, representing possible foci of activity, have been recorded to the east and north-east of the site, as have Neolithic/Bronze Age features. There is some evidence to suggest that early prehistoric activity was focused on the slightly higher ground to the north-east/east of the site (ibid.).

2.5 An early-middle enclosed Iron Age settlement has also been identified to the north east of the site. Contemporary ditches were recorded immediately to the east and their alignment suggests that associated features might extend into the proposed development area (targeted by proposed trenches 1 and 2). The foci of the Iron Age, and subsequent Romano-British, settlement is believed to be outside the current site (ibid.).

2.6 Watchfield Anglo-Saxon cemetery is located c. 85m north-east of the site. The limits of the cemetery have been defined and there is no evidence for associated features within the current site. During the medieval period the site is likely to have formed part of the agricultural hinterland to Watchfield. Ridge and furrow earthworks, of probable post-medieval date, are extant within the site.

2.7 The footings of buildings and remains of a road associated with Watchfield World War II airfield are extant within the site, but are considered to be heritage assets of negligible significance (ibid.).

### **3. OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed development. This information will assist Oxfordshire County Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of any future proposed developments.

### **4. FIELD METHODOLOGY**

4.1 The evaluation comprises the excavation of 16 trenches, each measuring 30m in length and at least 1.6m in width, in the locations shown on Fig. 1. Trenches will be



set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS, and scanned for live services by trained Cotswold Archaeology staff using CAT and Genny equipment. The position of the trenches may be adjusted on site to account for services and other constraints, with the approval of Hugh Coddington. The final 'as dug' trench plan will be recorded with GPS.

- 4.2 All trenches will be excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machining will be conducted under archaeological supervision and will cease when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate is revealed (whichever is encountered first). Excavation will continue by hand thereafter.
- 4.3 Following machining, all archaeological features revealed will be planned and recorded in accordance with Technical Manual 1 *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). Each context will be recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits will be recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50, or electronically using Leica 1200 series GPS or Total Station (TST) as appropriate) and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). Where detailed feature planning is undertaken using GPS/TST this will be carried out in accordance with Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (CA 2009). Photographs (monochrome print and digital colour) will be taken as appropriate. All finds and samples will be bagged separately and related to the context record. All artefacts will be recovered and retained for processing and analysis in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (CA 2010).
- 4.4 Sample excavation of archaeological deposits will be limited to resolving questions identified in Section 3 above. At this stage there is no requirement to sample all archaeological features encountered. Where human remains are encountered, these will not normally be excavated, but will be planned and recorded in detail. Where excavation of human remains is required, this will be conducted following the provisions of the Coroners Unit in the Ministry of Justice.
- 4.5 Due care will be taken to identify deposits which may have environmental potential, and where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling will be initiated. Samples will be taken, processed and assessed for potential in accordance with Technical Manual 2 *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003).

4.6 Upon completion of the evaluation all trenches will be backfilled by mechanical excavator.

4.7 CA will comply fully with the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996 and the Code of Practice referred to therein.

## 5. STAFF AND TIMETABLE

5.1 This project will be under the management of Cliff Bateman, MIfA, Project Manager, CA.

5.2 The staffing structure will be organised thus: the Project Manager will direct the overall conduct of the evaluation as required during the period of fieldwork. Day to day responsibility however will rest with the Project Leader who will be on-site throughout the project.

5.3 The field team will consist of a maximum of 3 staff (eg 1 Project Officer and 2 Archaeologists).

5.4 It is envisaged that the project will require approximately three to four days fieldwork. Analysis of the results and subsequent reporting will take up to a further two weeks.

5.5 Specialists who will be invited to advise and report on specific aspects of the project as necessary are:

Ceramics	Ed McSloy (CA)
Metalwork	Ed McSloy (CA)
Flint	Ed McSloy (CA)
Animal Bone	Jonny Geber (CA)
Human Bone	Harriet Jacklin (ULAS)
Environmental Remains	Sarah Cobain (CA)
Conservation	Wiltshire Conservation Service
Geoarchaeology	Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)
Building Recording	Peter Davenport (CA)

5.6 Depending upon the nature of the deposits and artefacts encountered it may be necessary to consult other specialists not listed here. A full list of specialists currently used by Cotswold Archaeology is contained within Appendix A.

## **6. POST-EXCAVATION, ARCHIVING AND REPORTING**

6.1 Following completion of fieldwork, all artefacts and environmental samples will be processed, assessed, conserved and packaged in accordance with CA Technical Manuals and Oxfordshire County Museum guidelines.

6.2 An illustrated report will be compiled on the results of the fieldwork and assessment of the artefacts, palaeoenvironmental samples etc. Copies of the report will be distributed to the client and Mr Coddington. A hard copy and digital .pdf version of the report will be deposited with Oxfordshire HER.

6.3 Should no further work be required, an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007).

6.4 As the limited scope of this work is likely to restrict its publication value, it is anticipated that a short publication note only will be produced, suitable for inclusion within an appropriate local archaeological journal. A summary of information from the project will also be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

6.5 CA will make arrangements with the Oxfordshire County Museum Service for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner, the artefact collection.

## **7. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

7.1 CA will conduct all works in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all subsequent Health and Safety legislation, CA Health, Safety and Welfare Policy (2010) and procedures. A risk assessment will be undertaken prior to commencement of fieldwork.



## 8. INSURANCES

8.1 CA holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £5,000,000. No claims have been made or are pending against these policies in the last three years.

## 9. MONITORING

9.1 Notification of the start of site works will be made to Hugh Coddington so that there will be opportunities to visit the evaluation and check on the quality and progress of the work.

## 10. QUALITY ASSURANCE

10.1 CA is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (RO Ref. No. 8). As a RO, CA endorses the *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (IfA 2008). All CA Project Managers and Project Officers hold either full Member or Associate status within the IfA.

10.2 CA operates an internal quality assurance system in the following manner. Projects are overseen by a Project Manager who is responsible for the quality of the project. The Project Manager reports to the Chief Executive who bears ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all CA operations. Matters of policy and corporate strategy are determined by the Board of Directors, and in cases of dispute recourse may be made to the Chairman of the Board.

## 11. REFERENCES

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[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 22  
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CA (Cotswold Archaeology ) 2011 Land at Majors Road, *Watchfield, Oxfordshire: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*. CA typescript report **11238**

OCC (Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services) 2011 Land off Majors Road, *Watchfield*,  
Oxon: *Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation*



## APPENDIX A: COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY SPECIALISTS

### **Ceramics**

Neolithic/Bronze Age	Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Elaine Morris (University of Southampton) Ros Cleal (freelance)
Iron Age/Roman (Samian) (Amphorae stamps)	Ed McSloy (CA) Peter Webster (freelance) David Williams (freelance)
Anglo-Saxon	Paul Blinkhorn (freelance) Jane Timby (freelance)
Medieval/post-medieval (Clay pipe)	Ed McSloy (CA) Duncan Brown (freelance) Reg Jackson (freelance)
Ceramic Building Material	Ed McSloy (CA) Phil Mills (freelance) Sandra Garside-Neville (freelance)

### **Other Finds**

Small Finds	Ed McSloy (CA)
Lithics (Palaeolithic)	Ed McSloy (CA) Phil Harding, Wessex Archaeology
Worked Stone	Fiona Roe (freelance)
Inscriptions	Roger Tomlin (Oxford)
Glass	Ed McSloy (CA) Hilary Cool (freelance) David Dungworth (English Heritage)
Coins	Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Peter Guest (Cardiff University) Richard Reece (freelance)
Leather	Quita Mould (freelance)
Textiles	Penelope Walton Rogers (freelance)
Iron slag/metal technology	Dr Tim Young (Cardiff University) Dr David Dungworth (English Heritage)
<b>Biological Remains</b>	
Animal bone	Jonny Geber (CA)
Human Bone (Cremations)	Harriet Jacklin (ULAS) Jackie McKinley (Wessex Archaeology)
Environmental sampling	Sarah Cobain (CA) Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)
Pollen	Nick Daffern (WHEAS)
Diatoms	Nigel Cameron (UCL)
Charred Plant Remains	Wendy Carruthers (freelance) Liz Pearson (WHEAS)

Wood/Charcoal	Dana Challinor (freelance)
Insects	David Smith (Birmingham University) QUEST (Reading University)
Mollusca	Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)
Fish bones	Hannah Russ (freelance) Philip Armitage
<b>Geoarchaeology</b>	Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)
<b>Scientific Dating</b>	
Dendrochronology	Cathy Groves (ARCUS) Robert Howard (NTRDL Nottingham)
Radiocarbon dating	University of Waikato (New Zealand) Beta Analytic (USA) Rafter (New Zealand)
Archaeomagnetic dating	Don Tarling (Plymouth)
TL/OSL Dating	Phil Toms (University of Gloucestershire)
<b>Conservation</b>	Wiltshire Conservation Services



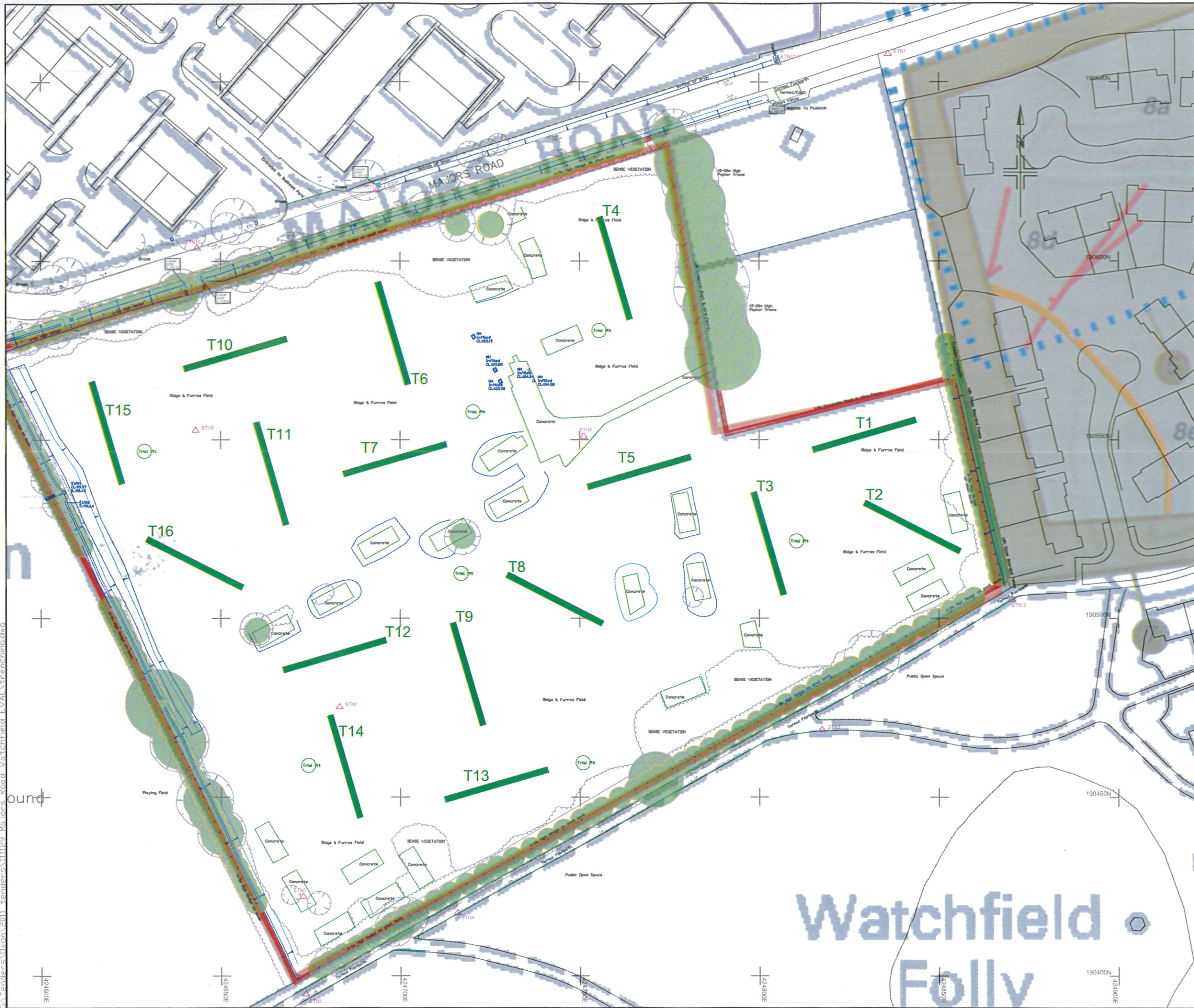
## APPENDIX B: ARCHAEOLOGICAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

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- site
- proposed evaluation trench
- 1998 archaeological excavation area
- early-middle Iron Age feature
- undated feature

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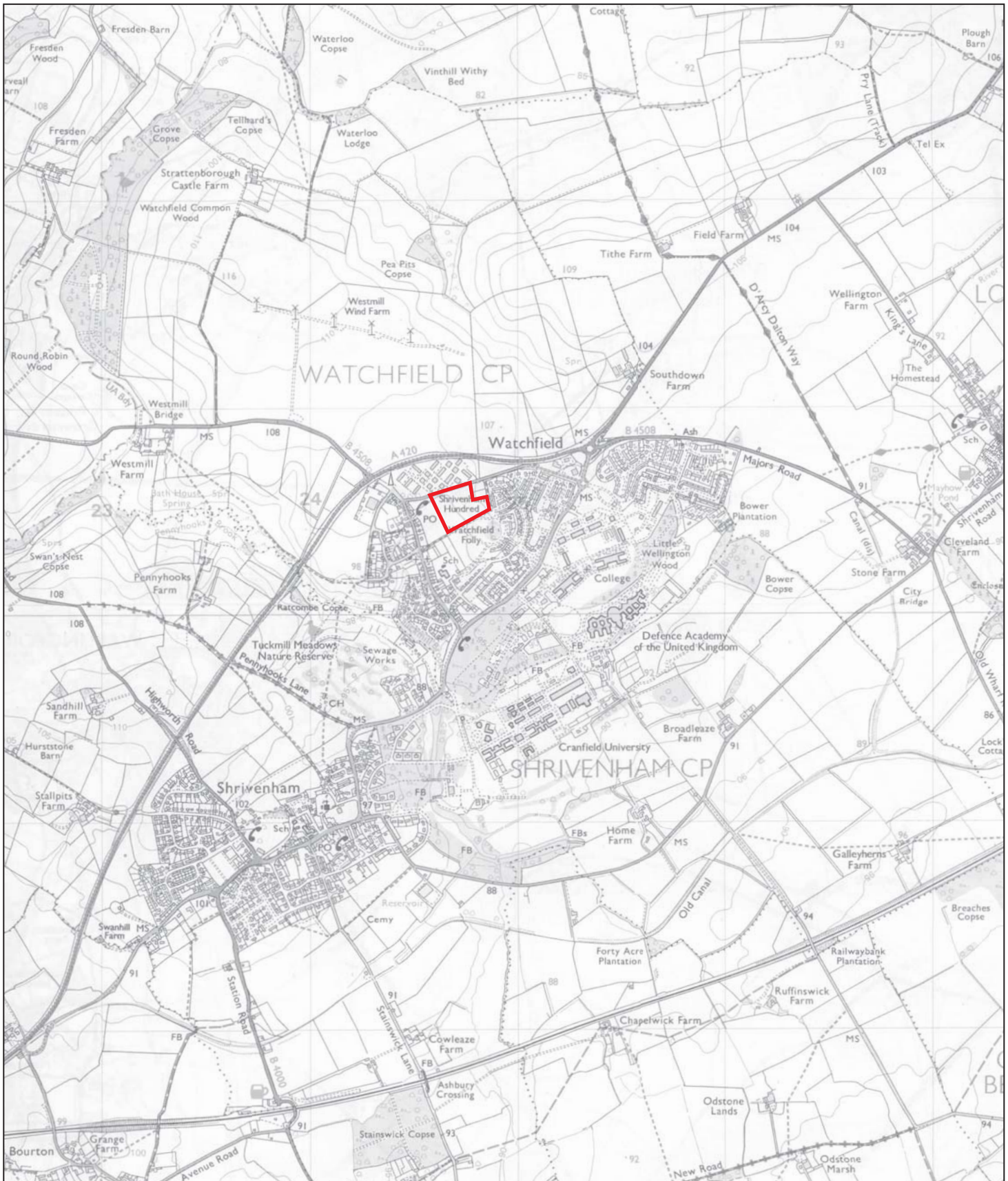
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 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land off Majors Road, Watchfield, Oxfordshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan, showing proposed archaeological trenching

PROJECT NO.	XXXX	DATE	22-11-2011	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	CMB	REVISION	00	<b>01</b>
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE	A3 1:1000	

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 w [www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
 e [enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land off Majors Road, Watchfield  
 Oxfordshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan



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PROJECT NO. 3648      DATE 14-10-2011  
 DRAWN BY JB      REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY PJM      SCALE@A4 1:25,000

**FIGURE NO.**  
**1**



- ▬ site
- ▬ evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern
- geological anomalies
- previous archaeological works showing archaeological features (after Burbeck, 2002)



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land off Majors Road, Watchfield  
 Oxfordshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan, showing  
 archaeological features

PROJECT NO.	3648	DATE	12-12-2011	FIGURE NO.	
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00		
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:1000		<b>2</b>

P:\3648 Majors Road Watchfield Oxon EVA\Illustration\Drafts\3648 Watchfield Fig 2.dwg

SU



3



4

**3 General view of site, looking north-west with trench 3 in the foreground**

**4 General view of site, looking north-west towards trenches 8 and 9**



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PROJECT TITLE

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 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Photographs**

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 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

**3 & 4**