

# Plot G Bath Business Park Peasedown St John BaNES

**Archaeological Excavation** 

for Hartwell plc

CA Project: 4410 CA Report: 13448

July 2013

# Plot G Bath Business Park Peasedown St John BaNES

# **Archaeological Excavation**

CA Project: 4410 CA Report: 13448

prepared by	Alistair Barber, Senior Project Officer
date	8 July 2013
checked by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
date	30 July 2013
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	Sher (a
date	30 July 2013
issue	01

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

#### © Cotswold Archaeology

Ciren	cester	Milton Keynes	Andover		
Buildir	ng 11	Unit 4	Office 49		
Kemb	le Enterprise Park	Cromwell Business Centre	Basepoint Business Centre		
Kemb	le, Cirencester	Howard Way, Newport Pagnell	Caxton Close, Andover		
<b>t.</b> 012	estershire, GL7 6BQ 85 771022 85 771033	MK16 9QS t. 01908 218320	Hampshire, SP10 3FG <b>t.</b> 01264 326549		
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk					

## **CONTENTS**

SUMM	ARY	. 2
1.	INTRODUCTION	.3
	The site  Archaeological background	
	Archaeological objectives	. 5
	Methodology	. 5
2.	RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)	.6
	The finds evidence	. 7
3.	DISCUSSION	.8
4.	CA PROJECT TEAM	.8
5.	REFERENCES	. 8
APPEN	NDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	. 10
APPEN	NDIX B: THE FINDS	. 10
APPEN	NDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	. 12

# **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Location plan showing Areas 1 and 2, archaeological features, geophysical survey results and geotechnical trial pits (1:500)
- Fig. 3 Area 2, pit 2004: section and photograph (1:20)

#### **SUMMARY**

**Project Name:** Plot G, Bath Business Park

**Location:** Peasedown St John, BaNES

**NGR:** ST 71210 57215

**Type:** Archaeological excavation

**Date:** 1 – 5 July 2013

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Bath Museum

Site Code: PGB 13

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2013 at Plot G, Bath Business Park, Peasedown St John, BaNES. Two excavation areas were investigated, and three geotechnical trial pits which were undertaken at the same time were archaeologically monitored.

A single pit encountered within Area 2 yielded pottery of 12th to 13th-century AD date.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation for Hartwell plc of two parts of the plot of land known as Plot G, Bath Business Park, Peasedown St John, BaNES (centred on NGR: ST 71210 57215; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Pre-planning application discussions took place between Hartwell Plc, CA and Richard Sermon, archaeological advisor to Bath and North East Somerset Council (BaNES) regarding the proposed future development of Plot G. A large proportion of this area has previously been subject to archaeological evaluation and to a subsequent programme of archaeological excavation and mitigation, the latter required as part of a Section 106 agreement on the outline planning consent for the business park development. Following discussions with Mr Sermon it was agreed that the remaining areas of Plot G, not excavated during the previous archaeological investigations on the site, would be archaeologically excavated in advance of the sale of the plot for future development, in order that no further archaeological works need be undertaken prior to development. Concurrent with the archaeological excavation, a ground investigation of the whole Plot G site was undertaken by Campbell Reith, with archaeological attendance by CA to ensure that any previously unexcavated archaeological remains were not disturbed.
- 1.3 The excavation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by Mr Sermon. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (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* (English Heritage 2006). The fieldwork was monitored by Mr Sermon.

#### The site

1.4 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.6ha, and comprises a single field of ungrazed rough pasture bounded to the north by the Bath Fertility Clinic (formerly Plot F), to the east by Eckweek Lane, and to the south and west by further recently developed elements of Bath Business Park. The site lies at approximately 142m AOD.

1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Ooidal Limestone from the Inferior Oolite Group. The overlying soils are from the Sherborne association consisting of a Brown Rendzina (BGS 2013).

#### Archaeological background

- 1.6 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeological Trust between April and June 2000 at the Bath Business Park site (CAT 2000). Twenty-six trenches were excavated, of which three (Trenches 2, 9 and 10) were within the current proposed area of proposed development (Plot G: Fig. 2), some targeted on anomalies detected by an earlier geophysical survey (Stratascan 2000). A large ditch of probable Iron Age date, measuring 4.5m in width and 1.8m in depth, was identified in Trench 2. An undated feature, possibly representing a pit, was identified in Trench 10.
- Subsequent archaeological excavations, undertaken in five areas across the Bath Business Park site by Cotswold Archaeology between 2004-2005, fully exposed the ditch previously identified in Trench 2 and confirmed its Iron Age date, as well as locating a tree-throw pit containing Iron Age pottery (Rowe and Alexander 2010). Adjacent to the east side of the ditch was a row of three poorly-preserved extended inhumations. Although undated, their south-west/north-east orientation, and the slightly north-west/south-east alignment of the row, is very similar to that of a group of at least 16 burials originally identified as part of a possible Saxon cemetery during the 2000 evaluation of the site currently known as Plot A, one burial from which was later dated to the mid-7th to early 8th century AD by radiocarbon dating undertaken as part of a re-investigation of this site in 2012 (CA 2012, see below).
- Just to the north of Plot G the 2004-2005 excavations also revealed a small group of pits, possible postholes and a gully, some of which contained 11th to 13th-century AD pottery. The 2004-2005 excavations also revealed a number of archaeological features across the wider Bath Business Park development. These comprised Middle Bronze Age burials, a late Roman enclosure and a Middle Saxon D-shaped enclosure. A further group of burials was identified to the south of Plot G, which, although undated, were thought likely to represent a further discrete area of burial probably contemporary with the cemetery revealed to the north during the 2000

evaluation, and originally thought likely to relate to Late Saxon and early medieval settlement to the north at Eckweek (Rowe and Alexander 2010).

1.9 A further archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2012 approximately 100m to the north of Plot G, on the site of Plot A (CA 2012). This revealed a total of 20 probable graves, forming part of the cemetery identified during the 2000 evaluation, along with two undated ditches possibly forming part of a cemetery boundary. Radiocarbon dating from one of the burials, which were better preserved here than in other parts of the Bath Business Park site (possibly due to a greater depth of covering soils) produced a mid-7th to early 8th-century AD date. This suggests that the cemetery, and possibly those burials found earlier within, and to the south of, Plot G, may date to the Middle Saxon Period and are therefore contemporary with the D-shaped settlement enclosure referred to in 1.7 above, rather than the later Saxon settlement at Ecweek. A small number of undated pits were also identified during the evaluation.

#### Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 The general objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:
  - record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered
  - assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and funerary remains
  - assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains
- 1.11 The specific aims of the work were to:
  - record any evidence of past settlement or other land use
  - recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that might be identified
  - sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy

## Methodology

1.12 The fieldwork comprised the investigation of two areas, coded as Areas 1 and 2, within the northern and south-western parts of the site. The excavation areas were

- set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.13 Both excavation areas 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).
- 1.14 In addition, CA monitored the excavation of two geotechnical trial pits (coded as 4 and 7) of eight which were excavated across the site by Campbell Reith (Fig. 2). The planned position of one of the trial pits was amended slightly, with trial pit 1 moved, to ensure that all were located in archaeologically sterile areas, as identified by the CA Project Officer (the other trial pits lay within areas previously excavated, and were therefore not archaeologically monitored).
- 1.15 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. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation (1995).
- 1.16 The archive and artefacts from the excavation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Bath 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 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and animal bone are to be found in Appendices A to C.

#### Area 1 (Fig. 2)

2.2 The natural substrate 1002, comprising limestone brash, was overlain by stony sand-clay subsoil 1001 and in turn by modern topsoil 1000. Two dump deposits 1003 and 1004 (not illustrated) were noted, both containing modern material which included plastic, wood and tarmacadam fragments. Deposit 1003 closely followed the eastern edge of Area 1 and appeared to represent stoning-up of the 2004 CA excavation area within Plot G.

# Area 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

2.3 The natural limestone brash substrate 2002 was cut by an oval pit, 2004, with a broad profile and fairly flat bottom. Thirty-four fragments of 12th to 13th-century AD pottery, together with 13 pieces of animal bone (Appendix C) were recovered from its homogenous stony sand-clay fill 2003. The animal bone comprised fragments of cattle, sheep/goat and bird (crow), with one fragment of cattle rib displaying a cut mark suggesting filleting.

#### The finds and environmental evidence

- 2.4 Artefactual material consisting of medieval and later pottery was from recovered from two deposits, along with 13 pieces of animal bone from pit 2004 (Appendices B and C respectively). Pottery type codes given in Appendix B relate to original definitions by Vince (1979, 27–31). A small group of 34 sherds (164 g) of medieval pottery recorded from pit fill 2003. All material consists of unglazed coarsewares belonging to types known commonly from Bath (Appendix B) and suggesting dating in the 12th or 13th centuries. Identifiable vessel forms consist of jars (two vessels) with simple everted rims. A single sherd of black basalt type stoneware, dateable to the mid-18th to 19th centuries, was recorded from topsoil layer 1001.
- 2.5 Three species were represented in the animal bone assemblage, reported in Appendix C. The assemblage was indicative of general waste material, with a transverse cut mark on a cattle rib suggesting butchery activity was taking place nearby.

#### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the proximity of excavation areas 1 and 2 to previously identified archaeological features, including an Iron Age ditch and three, undated, extended inhumation burials, only a single pit has been encountered during the mitigation works. The pit, of unknown function, yielded 34 sherds of 12th to 13th-century AD pottery and 13 pieces of animal bone. The pit lies immediately north of a concentration of pits, together with a short length of gully, possible shallow postholes and tree-throw pits, associated with 11th to 13th-century pottery, noted during the 2004-5 CA excavations, identifying further minor activity at this location (Rowe and Alexander 2010). The presence of a modest quantity of pottery, and animal bone including likely butchery waste, from pit 2004 suggests contemporary domestic activity lay within the vicinity of the site.
- 3.2 The excavation successfully recorded a single archaeological feature within the remaining areas of Plot G not previously excavated by Cotswold Archaeology in 2004-5, the results of which were published in 2010 (Rowe and Alexander 2010). As a result it is anticipated that this will be the final report on archaeological works at Plot G, and that no further archaeological work will be required prior to development of the plot.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber, assisted by Anthony Beechey and Jon Pick. The report was written by Alistair Barber. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Alistair Barber, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

#### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2012a Geology of Britain Viewer http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology viewer\_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 8 July 2013

- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Plot A, Bath Business Park, Peasedown St John, BaNES: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report **12350**
- CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 2000 Land at Peasedown St. John, Bath and North-East Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation. CAT Report **001184**
- Cohen, A. and Serjeantson, D. 1996 A manual for the identification of bird bones from archaeological sites London, Archetype Press
- Iregren, E. 2002 *Bildkompendium: Historisk osteologi* Department of Archaeology and Ancient History Report Series 85 Lund, University of Lund
- Rowe, M. and Alexander, M. 2010 'Multi-Period Activity at Peasedown St John, North-East Somerset: Excavations at Bath Business Park, Wellow Lane, 2004–5', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* **154**, 51-68
- Schmid, E. 1972 Atlas of animal bones: For prehistorians, archaeologists and quaternary geologists Amsterdam, Elsevier Publishing Company
- Stratascan 2000 Geophysical Survey carried out at Peasedown St. John, Bath and North-East Somerset. Ref No. **1452**
- Vince A. 1979 'The medieval pottery', in Cunliffe, B.W. (ed) 1979 *Excavations in Bath 1950– 75 Bristol*, C.R.A.A.G.S. Excavation Report No. **1**

# **APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Excavation Area	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretati on	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thick ness (m)	Spot- date
1	1000	Layer		topsoil	mid grey-brown sand-clay			0.2	
1	1001	Layer		subsoil	light grey-brown stony sand-clay			0.55	
1	1002	Layer		natural substrate	limestone brash				
1	1003	Deposit		dump	Cream-white fragmentary limestone with plastic and wood fragments.		>2		
1	1004	Deposit		dump	light grey-brown stony sand-clay with tarmacadam, concrete, plastic and wood fragments	5	5	0.5	
2	2000	Layer		topsoil	mid grey-brown sand-clay				
2	2001	Layer		subsoil	light grey-brown stony sand-clay				
2	2002	Layer		natural substrate	limestone brash				
2	2003	Fill	2004	pit fill	mid brown stony sand-clay	1.46	0.49	0.42	C12/13
2	2004	Cut		pit	Oval pit, aligned NE/SW, with steeply-sloping sides and irregular base	1.46	0.49	0.42	C12/13

# APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
1001	Post-medieval pottery: black basalt ware	1	23	C18-C19
2003	Medieval pottery: coarse quartz-tempered ('Bath A')	12	119	C12-C13
	Limestone-tempered ('Bath B')	11	37	
	Calcite/quartz-tempered	1	8	
	Fired clay: misc	2	4	

#### APPENDIX C: THE ANIMAL BONE

A small collection of animal bones (138g) were recovered from context 2003, which was the single fill of pit 2004. The bones, which were well preserved, were identified to species and element with the aid of an osteological reference collection (Cotswold Archaeology Ltd) and reference literature (Cohen and Serjeantson 1996; Iregren 2002; Schmid 1972). The remains were quantified by fragment count (NISP) and weight.

#### Result

Three species were identified. These included a cranial vault fragment, a fragment of a rib and a tibia identified as cattle (*Bos taurus*). The rib fragment displayed a transverse knife cut mark, indicative of filleting.

A second mammal species was represented by two tibiae fragments from a caprovine animal (Ovis aries/Capra hircus). No cut marks were observed on the bones.

The context also included four bird bones, which were identified as carrion crow (*Corvus corone*). All comprised bones from the left wing belonging to the same bird. The crow is an omnivorous animal, and it therefore not an uncommon find in archaeological deposits as the bird would have found a ready supply of food nearby human settlements.

#### **Summary and recommendations**

The animal bones in the fill (2003) of pit 2004 include remains from cattle, caprovine and carrion crow, and represent generic waste material. The bones have been fully analysed, and require no further work.

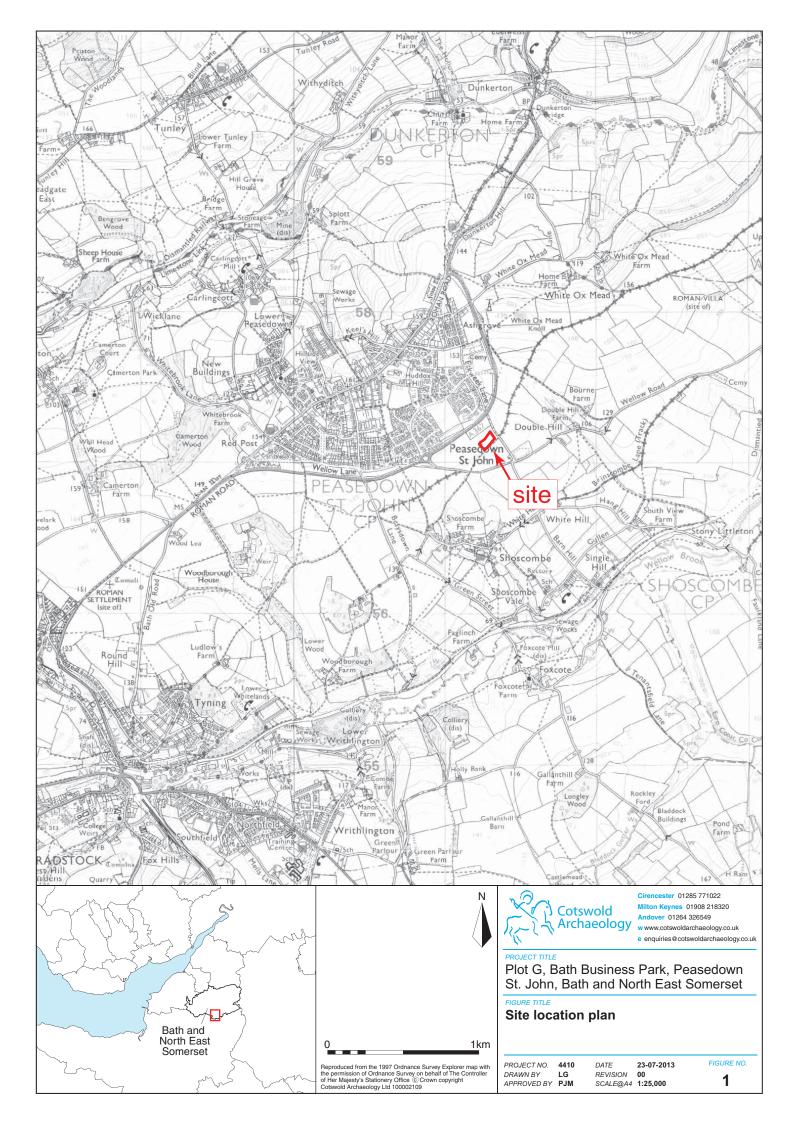
Table 1. Identified animal species and elements in context 2003, by fragment count (NISP) and weight. BOS = cattle; O/C = caprovine; COR = carrion crow; LM = large sized mammal; MM = medium sized mammal.

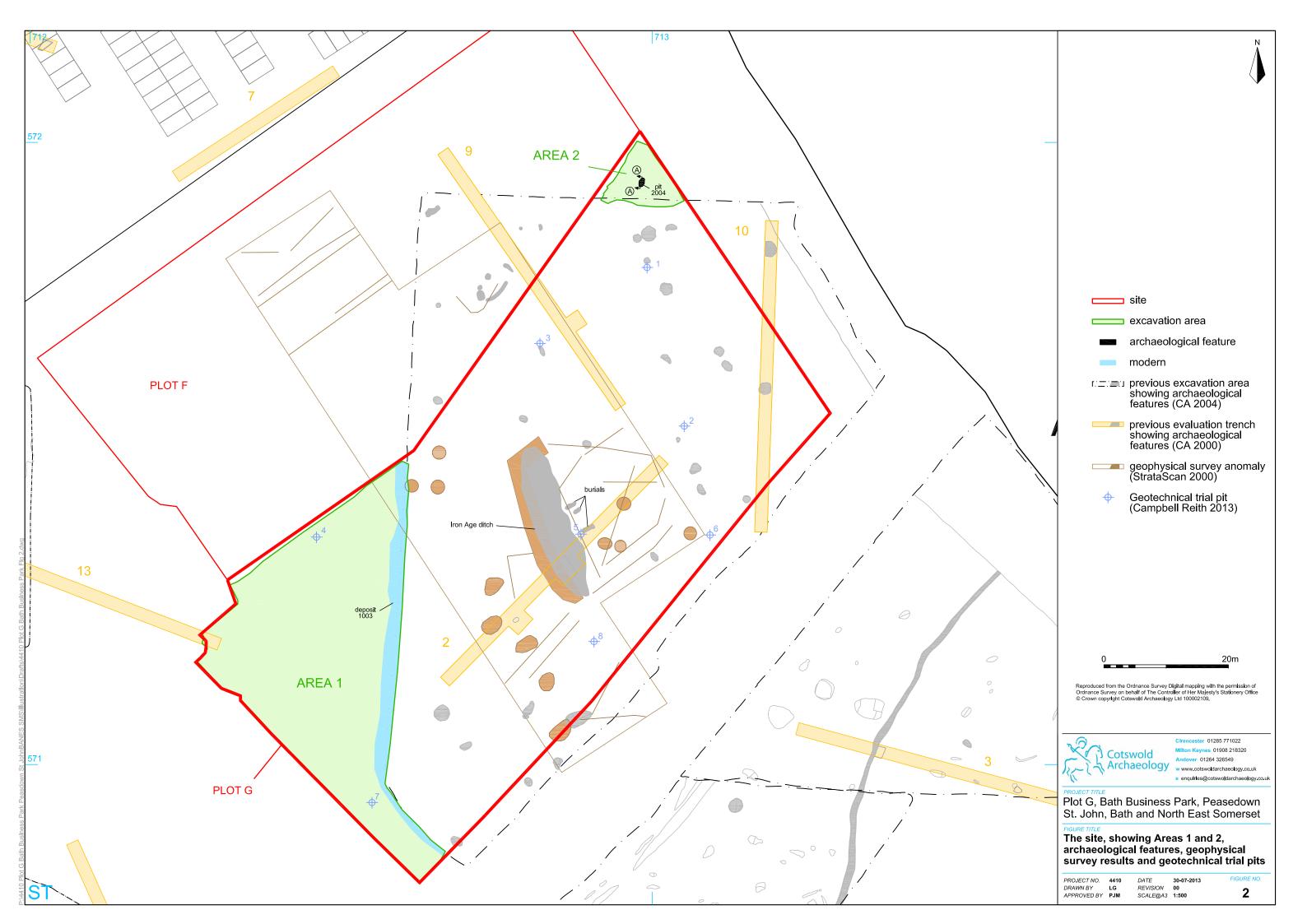
Element	BOS	O/C	COR	LM	MM	Total
Cranial	1	-	-	-	-	1
Rib	1	-	-	-	-	1
Humerus	-	-	1	-	-	1
Radius	ı	-	1	-	-	1
Ulna	-	-	1	-	-	1
Carpo-metacarpus	-	-	1	-	-	1
Tibia	1	2	-	-	-	3
Indet.	-	-	-	1	3	4
Total:	3	2	4	1	3	13
Weight (g):	117.92	6.07	3.01	5.43	5.89	138.32

## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

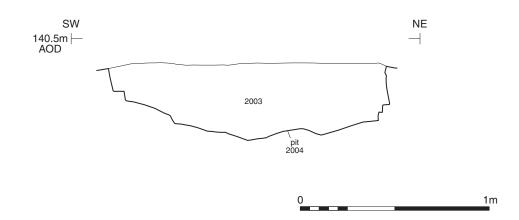
Project Name	Plot G, Bath Business Park, Peasedown	Plot G, Bath Business Park, Peasedown St John, BaNES				
Short description	An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2013 within Plot G, Bath Business Park, Peasedown St John, BaNES. Two excavation areas were investigated, and three geotechnical trial pits which were undertaken at the same time were archaeologically monitored.					
	A single pit encountered within Area 2 13th-century AD date.	yleided pottery of 12th to				
Project dates	1 – 5 July 2013					
Project type	Archaeological excavation and watching	brief				
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Stratascan 2000) Field evaluation (CAT 2000) Excavation (CA 2010)					
Future work						
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	Plot G, Bath Business Park, Peasedown St John, BaNES					
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.6					
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 71210 57215					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Brief originator	none					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager	Simon Cox					
Project Supervisor		Alistair Barber				
MONUMENT TYPE	none					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery animal bone etc)				
Physical	Bath Museum	Ceramics, animal bone				
Paper	Bath Museum	Trench Recording Forms, Context Sheets Drawing Register, Permatrace drawing				
Digital Bath Museum Digital photos						
BIBLIOGRAPHY						

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 Plot G, Bath Business Park, Peasedown St John, BaNES: Archaeological Excavation. CA typescript report 13448





## Section AA



Pit 2004, looking north-west





Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 218320
Andover 01264 326549
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Plot G, Bath Business Park, Peasedown St. John, Bath and North East Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Area 2; section and photograph

 PROJECT NO.
 4410
 DATE
 24-07-2013

 DRAWN BY
 LG
 REVISION
 00

 APPROVED BY
 PJM
 SCALE@A4
 1:20

FIGURE NO.