

Land at Bretton House Stow-on-the-Wold Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Pegasus Group on behalf of

ECVP Stow Ltd

CA Project: 4701 CA Report: 14012

February 2014

Land at Bretton House Stow-on-the-Wold Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 4701 CA Report: 14012

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date	13 February 2014
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Bretton House
Location:	Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SP 1914 2532
Туре:	Evaluation
Date:	20-23 January 2014
Location of Archive:	Corinium Museum
Site Code:	BTH 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2014 at Bretton House, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. Nine trenches were excavated.

The trenches targeted geophysical anomalies from a preceding survey. Two prehistoric pits and an undated pit were observed. All other features investigated proved to be geological in nature.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for the Pegasus Group on behalf of the ECVP Stow Ltd, at Bretton House, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 1914 2532; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application (Cotswold District Council (CDC); ref: 13/05031/OUT) for the development of structures and infrastructure associated with a continuing care retirement community (Class 2).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out as part of a programme of archaeological works advised by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council, the archaeological advisor to CDC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013a) that was approved by Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (Gloucestershire County Council 1995) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Charles Parry, including a site visit on the 23rd January 2014.

The site

- 1.3 The site is approximately 2.7ha in extent and is located immediately east of the A429, at the southern edge of Stow-on-the-Wold. Bretton House is located immediately west of the proposed development site and the town cemetery is situated to the north. The site slopes down gently from west to east, but is broadly situated at 230m AOD.
- 1.4 The solid geology within the site comprises Chipping Norton Limestone Formation of the Jurassic Period. No information relating to superficial deposits was identified within the site (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

1.5 In December 2011 Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by FarrowWalsh Consulting (on behalf of English Care Villages) to carry out an archaeological deskbased assessment (DBA) of land at Bretton House, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. The following is a summary of that document (CA 2013b) and a subsequent geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2014).

- 1.7 Prehistoric activity in the area appears to have been focused away from the current site, at Stow Camp to the north-east. The Foss Way Roman Road is located to the immediate west of the site- A429 (ibid).
- 1.8 Maugersbury Manor Garden and associated park, as recorded on the Gloucester Historic Environment Record, extends into the south-west of the site. Part of the wooded belt at the western edge of the site may be a remnant park feature; although current evidence suggests that the park was focused, to the south-east. A ditch, parallel to the A429, has been identified in the south-western part of the site. It could conceivably be associated with the original Roman road construction, landscaping associated with the construction of Bretton House in the early 20th century. The various amorphous undulations observed in the woodland at the western edge of the proposed development site are likely to be associated with tree throws, construction of Bretton House, or potentially small-scale quarrying (ibid).
- 1.9 The majority of the current site is recorded as agricultural land in the late 19th century, and it is likely that it formed of the agricultural hinterland to Stow and Maugersbury in the medieval and post-medieval periods (ibid).
- 1.10. Subsequent to the compiling of the DBA a geophysical survey was undertaken by (Archaeological Surveys 2014). This identified a series of anomalies that were similar in nature to those seen at Griffin Close, Stow-on-the-Wold CA (2013c) which were interpreted as Anglo-Saxon and Prehistoric features. This consisted of anomalies indicative of linear and discreet features (Archaeological Surveys 2014).

Archaeological objectives

1.11 The objectives of the evaluation was to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable the CDC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed

development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.12 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 9 trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.8m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 2, 4, 7 and 8 were moved from the locations agreed in the WSI; with the approval of Charles Parry' due to overhead power lines. Trenches 4 and 7 were both extended following discussions with Charles Parry. Trenches 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 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* (2013).
- 1.14 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).
- 1.15 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 2-5)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 2.2 The natural limestone substrate was identified within each of the trenches at a depth of 0.4m below the existing ground surface. It was typically overlain by subsoil that was in turn, overlain by topsoil each measuring 0.2m in depth. The exception to this sequence was the identification of colluvial deposits within Trenches 3 and 8 (deposits 303 and 803 respectively) which overlay the natural substrate and were sealed by subsoil.
- 2.3 Trenches 1 and 9 revealed features which correlated with geophysical anomolies. However, when excavated these features were proven to be geological in nature. They contained orange silt clay and were up to 7m wide (Fig. 5). No archaeological or geological features were identified within Trenches 2 and 5.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 and 3)

2.4 Trench 4 contained two pits, both of which cut the natural substrate and sealed by the subsoil. Pit 407 was not excavated but seen to be sub-circular in plan. A sherd of late prehistoric pottery was recovered from the surface while defining it. Pit 403 was oval in plan and contained two fills (404 and 405) from which late prehistoric pottery and animal bones were recovered (Fig. 3 section AA). Other features observed in this trench appeared to be geological in nature.

Trench 6

2.5 Trench 6 contained an undated ditch (603) aligned north-south. It contained a single fill (604) and was cut into the subsoil. No further features were identified in this trench.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 and 4)

2.6 Trench 7 contained an undated truncated pit, 704 which contained a single fill 705 (Fig.4 section BB) containing cattle bones consistent with animal husbandry. Features seen on the geophysical survey nearby proved to be geological.

The finds

Pottery

2.7 Finds recovered during the evaluation consisted of pottery.

Pottery: Late Prehistoric

- 2.8 Fill 405 of pit 403 produced an unfeatured bodysherd in a shell-and-quartz tempered fabric and one in a shell-tempered fabric. One very small unfeatured bodysherd of pottery in a limestone-tempered fabric was recovered from fill 406 of pit 407. Fabric and firing characteristics of all three sherds are suggestive of a Late Bronze Age to Iron Age date.
- 2.9 A total of four bodysherds of pottery in a shell-and-limestone tempered fabric were recovered from colluvial deposit 303. Two sherds from a carinated bowl featured a horizontal band of fingertip-impressed decoration on the carination. This pottery type dates to the Early Iron Age.

The Faunal Remains

- 2.10 A total of seven fragments of animal bone (103g) were recovered from two contexts (405 and 705). The bones, while highly fragmented, were in a good state of preservation making it possible to identify cattle including foetal remains (*Bos tauraus*), ovicaprid (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and pig (*Sus scrofa sp.*).
- 2.11 Given the small size of the assemblage, there is little interpretative data to gain beyond confirming the presence of these species on site.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see background above) only three pits and a ditch were observed during the evaluation. Two pits identified in Trench 4 may be evidence for an area of possible prehistoric activity. The seemingly isolated pit observed in Trench 7 was undated but its position stratagraphically and similarity of its fill to those revealed in Trench 4 may indicate that it was contemporaneous. The ditch cut the subsoil and may be modern in date although it does not appear on OS mapping.

3.2 The buried soils in Trenches 3 and 8 may be early Iron-Age (pottery was recovered from 303) in nature but little further interpretation of them can be made. Despite the similarities of the geophysical survey with those seen at Griffin Close (CA 2013b), the majority of features seen proved to be geological in nature.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Brannlund, assisted by Jonathan Orellana and Peter Searle. The report was written by Luke Brannlund. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennet. The archive has been compiled by Luke Brannlund, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

5. **REFERENCES**

- Archaeological Surveys 2014 Land at Bretton House, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire-Magnetometer Survey for Cotswold Archaeology, Archaeological Surveys Ref. No. **525**
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 24 January 2014
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013a Land at Bretton House, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013b Land at Bretton House, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire: Heritage Desk Based Assessment, CA Report No. **11302**
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013c *Griffin Close, Stow-on-theWold, Gloucestershire:* Archaeological Evaluation, CA Report No. **13133**

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thick ness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.2	Modern
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Dark red-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.2	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Limestone with red-brown clay	30	1.8	n/a	
1	103	Deposit	104	Fill	Red-brown silt clay	1.8	1.8	0.5	
1	104	Cut		Natural	Geological feature	1.8	2.05	0.5	
1	105	Deposit	107	Fill	Mid brown clay silt with stones				
1	106	Deposit	107	Fill	Mid red-brown silt clay				
1	107	Cut		Natural	Geological feature	1.8	7	0.75	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.2	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Dark red-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.2	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Limestone with red-brown clay	30	1.8	n/a	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.2	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Dark red-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.2	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Limestone with red-brown clay	30	1.8	n/a	
3	303	Layer		Buried soil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	17	1.8	0.2	L BA/IA
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.2	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Dark red-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.2	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Limestone with red-brown clay	30	1.8	n/a	
4	403	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan with flat bowl-shaped profile		0.8	0.4	
4	404	Deposit	403	Fill of pit	Mid grey-brown clay silt with stones		0.8	0.15	
4	405	Deposit	403	Fill of pit	Dark grey brown clay silt with stones		0.7	0.25	L BA/IA
4	406	Deposit	407	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown silt clay, not excavated		0.85		L BA/IA
4	407	Cut		Pit	Circular in plan, not excavated		0.85		
5	501	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.25	
5	502	Layer		Subsoil	Dark red-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.1	
5	503	Layer		Natural	Limestone with red-brown clay	30	1.8	n/a	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.2	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Dark red-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.2	
6	602	Layer		Natural	Limestone with red-brown clay	30	1.8	n/a	
6	603	Cut		Ditch	Southwest-northeast linear in plan with U shaped profile	1.8	1.05	0.4	ļ
6	604	Deposit		Fill of ditch	Orange silt clay	1.8	1.05	0.4	
7	701	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.15	
7	702	Layer		Subsoil	Dark red-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.15	
7	703	Layer		Natural	Limestone with red-brown clay	30	1.8	n/a	
7	704	Cut		Pit	Sub oval in plan with shallow bowl- shaped profile	0.65	0.5	0.15	
7	705	Deposit	704	Fill of pit	Dark grey-brown silt clay	0.65	0.5	0.15	
8	801	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.2	
8	802	Layer		Subsoil	Dark red-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.25	
8	803	Layer		Buried soil	Mid brown silt clay	14.5	1.8	0.2	
8	804	Layer		Natural	Limestone with red-brown clay	30	1.8	n/a	
9	901	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.15	
9	902	Layer		Subsoil	Dark red-brown clay silt	30	1.8	0.15	

9	903	Layer	Natural	Limestone with red-brown clay	30	1.8	n/a	
9	904	Cut	Natural	Circular geological feature		1.45	0.5	
9	905	Deposit	Fill	Mid red-brown clay		1.45	0.5	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS BY JACKY SOMMERVILLE AND ANDY CLARKE

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
303	Late Prehistoric pottery: shell-and-limestone tempered	4	36	EIA
	fabric			
405	Late Prehistoric pottery: shell-and-quartz tempered fabric	1	22	Late prehistoric
	Late Prehistoric pottery: shell-tempered fabric	1		
406	Late Prehistoric pottery: limestone-tempered fabric	1	1	Late prehistoric

Context	BOS	O/C	SUS	Total	Weight (g)
405	1	2		3	13
705	3		1	4	90
Total	4	2	1	7	
Weight	69	4	30	103	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = oviacaprid, SUS = pig

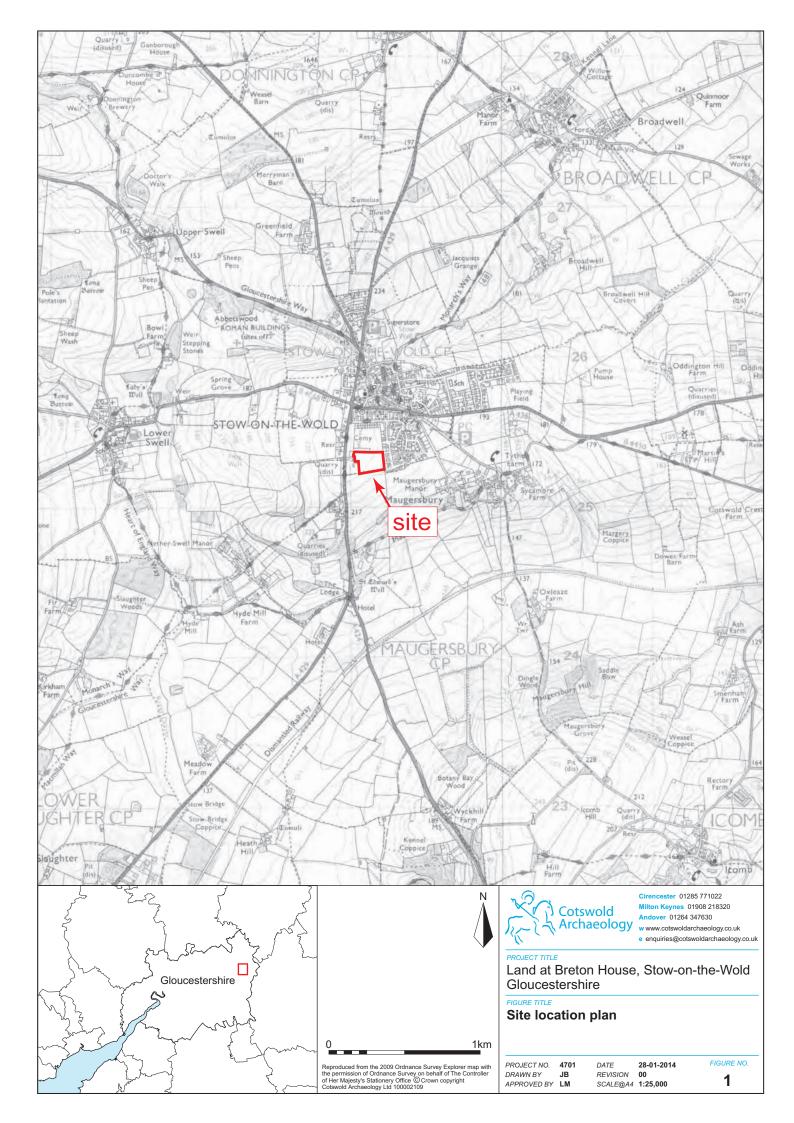
APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

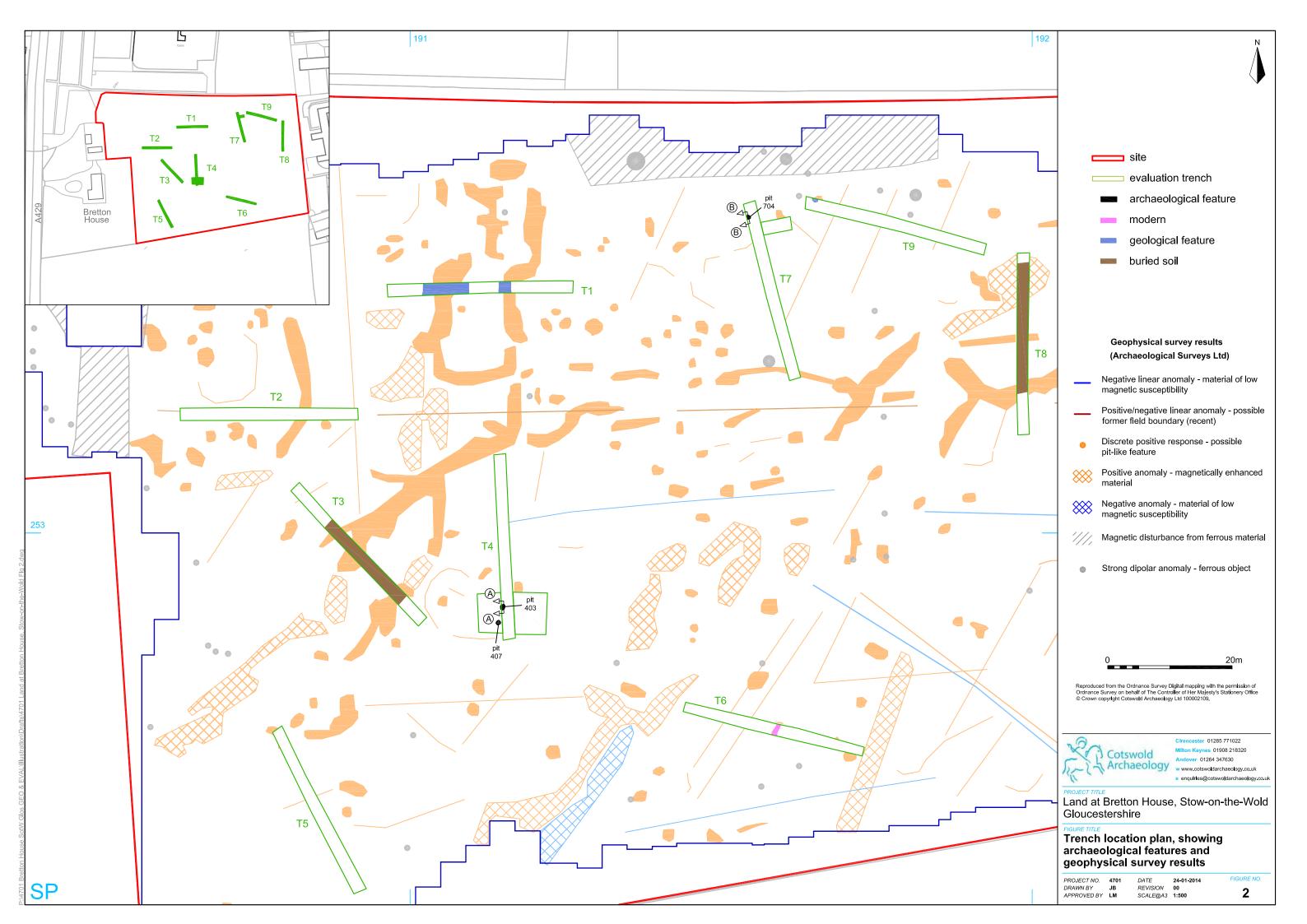
PROJECT DETAILS

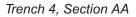
PROJECT DETAILS					
Project Name	Land at Bretton House, Stow-on-the-Wol	d, Gloucestershire			
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology January 2014 at Bretton House, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. Nir trenches were excavated.				
	The trenches targeted geophysical anomali Two prehistoric pits and an undated pit were investigated proved to be geological in nature.	e observed. All other features			
Project dates	20-23 January 2014				
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation				
Previous work	Geophysical Survey- Archaeological Survey-				
(reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	DBA- Cotswold Archaeology (report no 1	1302)			
Future work	Unknown				
PROJECT LOCATION					
Site Location	Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire				
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.7/ha				
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 1914 2532				
PROJECT CREATORS					
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology				
Project Brief originator	None				
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology				
Project Manager	lan Barnes				
Project Supervisor	Luke Brannlund				
MONUMENT TYPE	None				
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None				
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)			
Physical	Corinium Museum	Ceramics			
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench sheets, context sheets, Photo registers, Permatrace drawings			
Digital	Corinium Museum	Database, digital photos, Geomatic data			
BIBLIOGRAPHY					

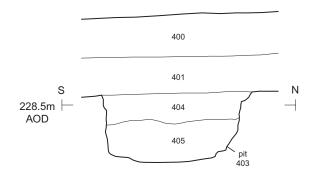
Archaeological Surveys 2014 Land at Bretton House, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire- Magnetometer Survey for Cotswold Archaeology, Archaeological Surveys Ref. No. **525**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013c Land at Bretton House, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire: Heritage Desk Based Assessment, CA Report No. **11302**

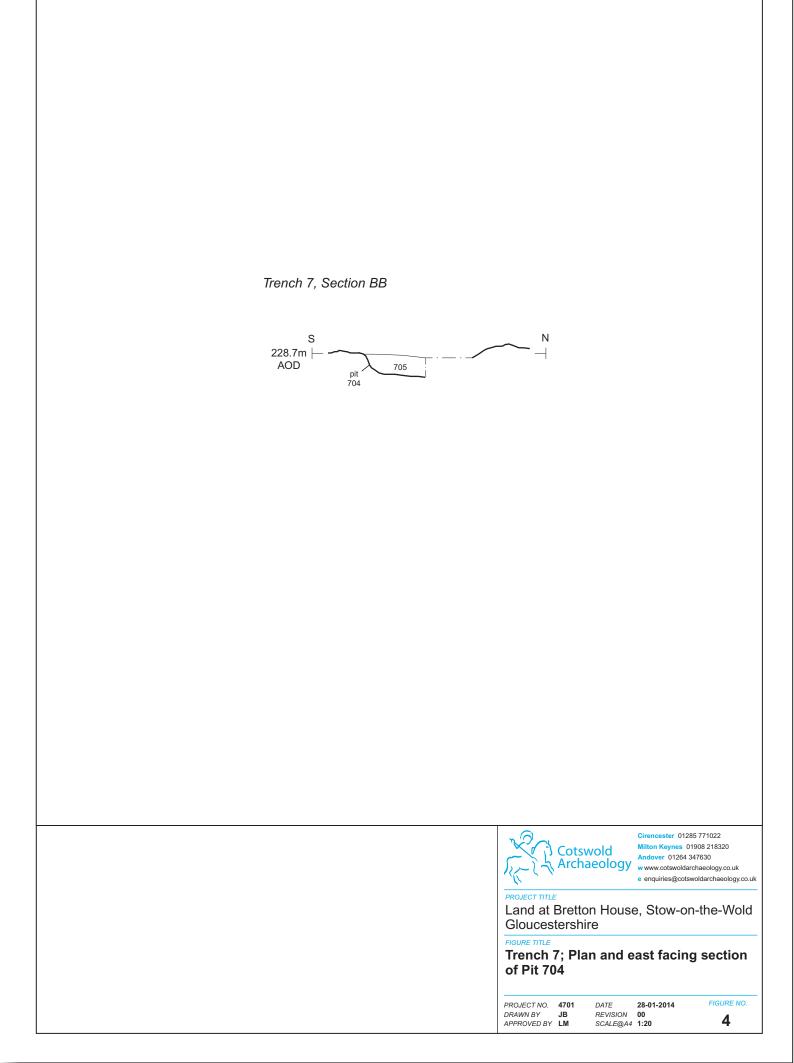








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Land at Bretton House, Stow-on-the-Wold Gloucestershire
FIGURE TITLE Trench 4; Plan and east facing section of Pit 403
PROJECT NO. 4701 DATE 14-02-2014 FIGURE NO. DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:20 3





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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Looking southwest, oblique view of geology in Trench 1.

PROJECT NO. 4701 DATE 28-01-2014 FIGURE NO. DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 NA 5