

**Red Lake Farm
Littleton, Somerton
Somerset**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for

Mr Barry Popham

HER Ref No: 32824

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CA Project: 5358

CA Report: 15189

April 2015



Red Lake Farm
Littleton, Somerton
Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Red Lake Farm
Location: Littleton, Somerton, Somerset
NGR: ST 4937 3104
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 9 April 2015
Planning Reference: South Somerset District Council 14/05708/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Somerset Heritage Centre
Site Code: REDF 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of three holiday lodges at Red Lake Farm, Littleton, Somerton.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr Barry Popham at Red Lake Farm, Littleton, Somerton, Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 4937 3104; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition (no 5) attached to a planning consent for the erection of three fisherman/holiday lodges, and conversion of existing storeroom (Planning ref: South Somerset District Council (SSDC) 14/05708/FUL).

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Steven Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Somerset County Council, the archaeological advisor to SSDC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014) the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

1.3 The development area is approximately 2.1ha, and consists of the land within the grounds of Red Lake Farm. It is bounded to the east by the B3151, to the north and west by agricultural fields and to the south by residential properties. The site lies at approximately 16m AOD and is broadly level.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone and halite-stone sedimentary bedrock of the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2015). Natural red clay was exposed during the groundworks.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site is located immediately to the east of Littleton Roman villa which dates to the 4th century AD, but overlies a 2nd-century AD structure (Branigan 1976). The location of the villa was confirmed by geophysical survey in 1993 but unfavourable survey conditions added little to its interpretation (GSB 1993).



- 2.2 A second probable Roman villa was identified immediately to the south of the village of Littleton (c. 700m to the south-west of the site). Excavations in 1822 uncovered bricks, mosaics, pottery and tiles of Roman date.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the stripping of the foundation rafts for the three holiday lodges and the septic tank (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. It will be deposited with the Somerset Heritage Centre. 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate (402) consisting of a firm red clay with light grey patches was only revealed at the excavation for the septic tank (Trench 4) at an

average depth of 1m below present ground level. This was overlain by subsoil (401) averaging 0.85m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.15m of topsoil (400). Subsoil and topsoil deposits were observed in the other three trenches but the natural substrate was not exposed at the required formation level.

5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above) the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.

6.2 However, it should be noted that the excavations for the three holiday lodges were too shallow to expose the natural substrate and therefore any archaeological remains. The subsoil deposits are of a greater thickness than anticipated, perhaps suggesting the re-working of alluvial deposits.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Orellana. The report was written by Jonathan Orellana. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Orellana, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurie Coleman.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Branigan, K. 1976 *The Roman Villa in South-West England*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Red Lake Farm, Littleton, Somerton, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

GSB Prospection 1993 *Report on Geophysical Survey, Littleton, Somerset*. Report **93/20**

Heritage Gateway 2015 <http://heritagegateway.org.uk> accessed 1 April 2015



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	9	7	0.16	
1	101	Layer	subsoil	mid brownish red silty clay	9	7	>0.33	
2	200	Layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	9	7	0.19	
2	201	Layer	subsoil	mid brownish red silty clay	9	7	>0.31	
3	300	Layer	topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	9	7	0.2	
3	301	Layer	subsoil	light brownish red silty clay	9	7	>0.35	
4	400	Layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	4	1.5	0.15	
4	401	Layer	subsoil	mid brownish red silty clay	4	1.5	0.85	
4	402	Layer	natural substrate	light red clay with white patches	4	1.5		

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Red Lake Farm	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of three holiday lodges and a septic tank at Red Lake Farm, Littleton, Somerton. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	9 April 2015	
Project type	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (GSB Prospection 1993)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Red Lake Farm, Littleton, Somerton	
Study area	2.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 4937 3104	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Orellana	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	Somerset Heritage Centre	Trench forms
Digital	Somerset Heritage Centre	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Red Lake Farm, Littleton, Somerton, Somerset: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 15189		

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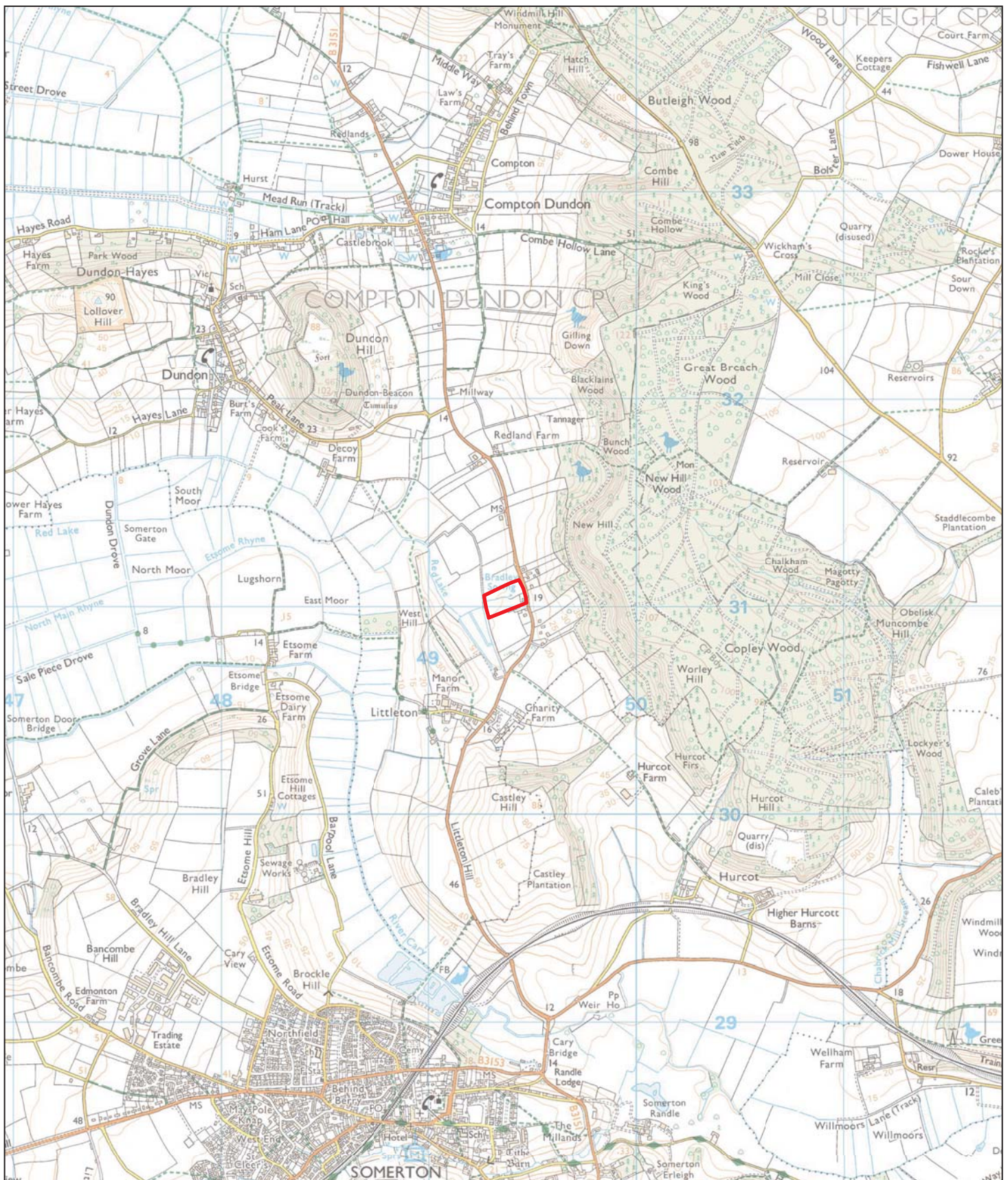
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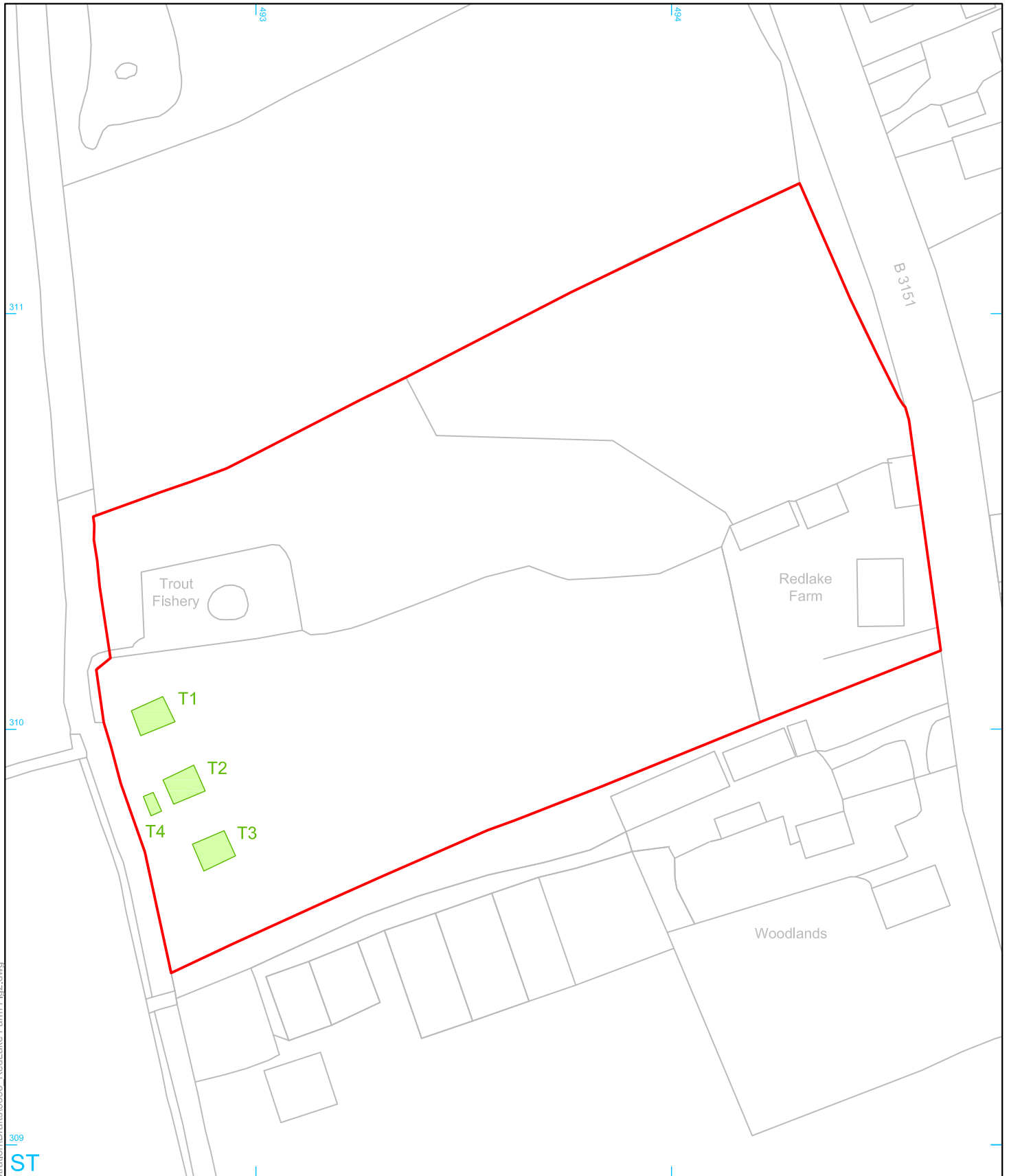
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PROJECT TITLE
 RedLake Farm, Littleton, Somerton
 Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY LJH	PROJECT NO. 5358	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY JB	DATE 14/04/15	
APPROVED BY LECC	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1

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-  site boundary
-  observed groundworks



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PROJECT TITLE

Redlake Farm, Littleton, Somerton
Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Site plan showing location of observed groundworks

DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	5358	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	REVISION	01	2
DATE	22/04/2015	SCALE@A4	1:1250	





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3 Observed groundworks (Trench 3), looking north-west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Redlake Farm, Littleton, Somerton
 Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

DRAWN BY L J H PROJECT NO. 5358
 CHECKED BY J B DATE 22/04/15
 APPROVED BY LECC SCALE@A4 n/a

FIGURE NO.

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