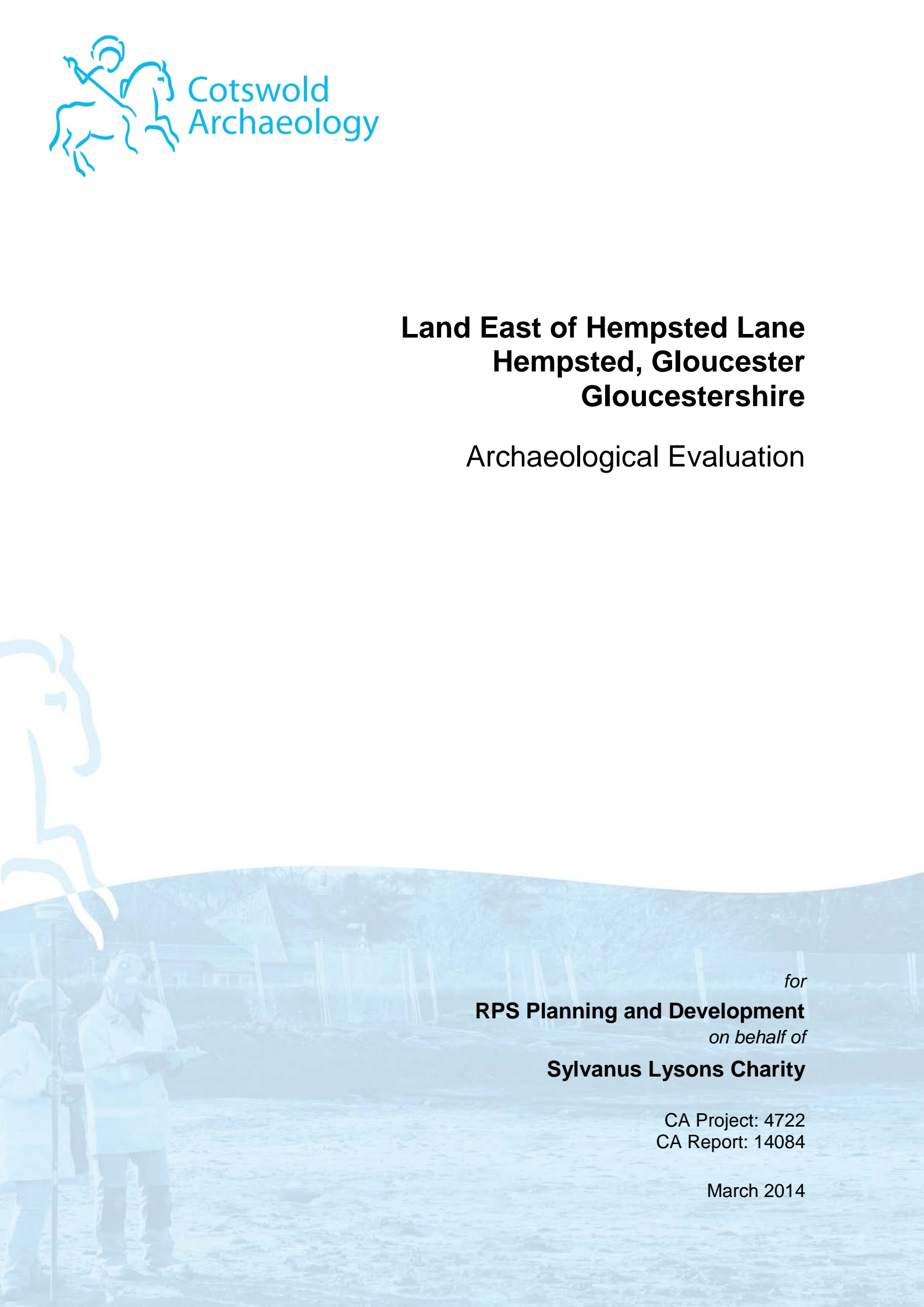


**Land East of Hempsted Lane
Hempsted, Gloucester
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
RPS Planning and Development
on behalf of
Sylvanus Lysons Charity


CA Project: 4722
CA Report: 14084

March 2014

Land East of Hempsted Lane
Hempsted, Gloucester
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 4722
CA Report: 14084

prepared by	Daniel Sausins, Project Supervisor
date	04 March 2014
checked by	Cliff Bateman, Principal Project Manager
date	07 March 2014
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	10 March 2014
issue	02

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Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	Milton Keynes Unit 4 Cromwell Business Centre Howard Way, Newport Pagnell MK16 9QS t. 01908 218320	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover, Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347630
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk		

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land East of Hempsted Lane
Location: Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 8175 1705
Type: Evaluation
Date: 25-27 February 2014
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code: EHL 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2014 land east of Hempsted Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Eight trenches were excavated.

Two undated ditches, a posthole, a post-medieval postpad and a former field boundary ditch were identified, along with extant ridge and furrow and a possible pond.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for RPS Planning and Development on behalf of Sylvanus Lysons Charity at land east of Hempsted Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8175 1705; Fig. 1). The evaluation was requested by Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, Gloucester City Council (GCC), prior to determination of a forthcoming planning application.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by RPS (2014) and approved by Andrew Armstrong (GCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996), 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). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong, including a site visit on 26 February 2014

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area was approximately 3.6ha in extent, and comprised three fields under pasture and an orchard. The site is bounded by Hempsted Lane to the west, residential estates to the south and east and Gordon League Rugby Football Club to the north. It lies at approximately 23m AOD, gently falling away to the north.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2014). Yellow-brown silty clays and blue clays were recorded throughout site.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The proposed development area has been subject of a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (RPS 2013) that is summarised below;
- 1.6 There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the area and there is no recorded evidence for prehistoric or Roman period activity within the application area itself.

However, given its location on a low hill overlooking the Severn Valley, with possible Roman remains nearby at Newark Camp and with other stray finds in the area, the possibility of the survival of pre-medieval remains within the application area cannot be ruled out (*ibid*).

- 1.7 Extant ridge and furrow, probably of medieval date, is located throughout the application area (*ibid*).
- 1.8 A geophysical survey of the application area has also been carried out (GSB 2013). This has further identified the presence of ridge and furrow within the application area, former field boundaries (anomalies 1 and 3) and a large area of disturbance (2), the later interpreted as the location of a demolished building (*ibid.*).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the evaluation are 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). This information will enable GCC 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

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of eight trenches, seven measuring 50m x 1.8m and one measuring 40m x 1.8m in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). All 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).
- 1.11 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).

- 1.12 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). 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).
- 1.13 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 Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery 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 geological substrate, comprising brown-yellow silty clay with areas of blue clay, was typically revealed at a depth of 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl) in each trench. It was overlain by approximately 0.3m of subsoil which, in turn, was sealed by approximately 0.2m of topsoil. Extant ridge and furrow was identified in all trenches, and tree-throw pits, in all probability associated with former orchards, were identified in Trenches 6 and 7. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified within Trenches 4, 5 and 8.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.3 Ditch 105 was broadly aligned east/west, measured 1.74m in width and 0.16m in depth, with moderately sloping sides and concave base. It contained two silty clay fills, 103 and 104, which remained undated and were sealed by subsoil 101.
- 2.4 Modern feature 106 was irregular in plan and profile and measured at least 4m in length, 1m in width and 0.6m in depth. It contained modern dumped material 107, comprising clinker, glass, salt-glazed drain pipe and floor tile. Feature 106 cut through the topsoil and was sealed by a thin, modern turf-line. It also correlated with the location of geophysical anomaly (2).

Trench 2 (Fig 2)

- 2.5 Ditch 203 was aligned north-east/south-west, measured 3m in width, 1m in depth and was observed cutting subsoil 201. It contained dark black-brown silty clay 204. It correlated with the location of linear geophysical anomaly, representative of a former field boundary.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 2.6 Posthole 305 was square in plan, measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.06m in depth, with vertical sides and flat base. It contained undated mid grey-brown sandy silt 306 which was sealed by subsoil 301
- 2.7 Postpad 307 was square in plan, measured 0.37m in diameter and 0.12m in depth, with vertical sides and flat base. It contained silty clay 310, from which post-medieval nails were recovered, which was overlain by two unfrosted, poorly fired bricks (measuring 10" x 4.5" x 3") and backfilled by sandy silt 309. It was sealed by subsoil 301

Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 2.8 Ditch 605 was aligned north-east/south-west, measured 0.6m in width and 0.27m in depth with an irregular profile. It contained clay sand 606, from which a single sherd of heavily abraded Roman pottery was recovered. It was cut by tree-throw pit 604. Both the ditch and the tree-throw pit were sealed by subsoil 601. Neither feature was identified during the preceding geophysical survey.

Trench 7 (Fig 2)

- 2.9 Tree-throw pit 704 was broadly oval in plan, measuring 0.9m in length, 0.7m in width and 0.1m in depth. It contained single fill 705 and was sealed by subsoil 702.

The finds

- 2.10 Finds recovered during the evaluation included pottery, ceramic building material and iron objects. Codings for medieval fabrics that are given in parenthesis within the text and Appendix B correspond to the Gloucester pottery type series codes as defined by Vince (unpublished).



Pottery: Roman

- 2.11 One tiny bodysherd of heavily abraded central Gaulish Samian ware was recovered from fill 606 within ditch 605. This ware type was exported to Britain during the 2nd century (Webster 1996, 2-3).

Medieval

- 2.12 Furrow fill 304 in Trench 3 produced four joining base sherds in Malvernian unglazed ware (TF40) and a rimsherd, with attached strap handle, from a jug in Malvernian glazed ware (TF52). These pottery types were produced between the Malvern Hills and the River Severn (Bryant 2004, 300-304) from the 12th to 17th centuries (Vince unpublished).
- 2.13 One internally-glazed base sherd of Worcester type glazed ware (TF90) was recovered from furrow fill 804 in Trench 8. This pottery type was produced throughout Worcestershire during the 12th to 14th centuries (Bryant 2004, 281-297).

Ceramic building material

- 2.14 Furrow fill 804 in Trench 8 produced one fragment of flat roof tile, dating to the late medieval or post-medieval period.

Metal objects

- 2.15 Four iron nails of uncertain date were recovered from post-pad fill 310.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Ditch 605 identified in Trench 6 sealed by subsoil is on the same alignment as the ridge and furrow (it survived on a former ridge). One small sherd of heavily abraded Roman pottery was recovered from its fill 606, but is likely to be residual. Without any securely datable material, further interpretation of use or period is not possible. The ditch was cut by tree-throw 604, which was also sealed by subsoil.
- 3.2 Undated ditch 105 within Trench 1 does not align with any of the current or historic field boundaries recorded on cartographic evidence. The ditch is also aligned contrary to the extant ridge and furrow, although no physical relationship between the two was established during the current works to indicate which was the

earliest. Without such stratigraphic evidence and with the paucity of datable material, further interpretation of use or period is not possible.

- 3.3 Feature 106, identified at the northern limit of Trench 1, correlates with the location of a large geophysical anomaly (2) which was interpreted as a possible demolished building in the geophysical report. However, consultation of cartographic sources dated from 1884 to 1936 suggests this feature may represent a former pond rather than a building. Such an interpretation is supported by the identified modern material, 107, which contained only limited quantities of building material.
- 3.4 A post-medieval postpad and undated posthole identified in Trench 3 are likely to be contemporary through association. No other evidence for an associated structure was observed, and the postholes are interpreted as a possible fenceline running along the ridge of the ridge and furrow earthworks. Although ditch 203 identified within Trench 2 is not depicted on 19th or 20th-century cartographic sources, it is also interpreted as being post-medieval in origin due to its stratigraphic position cutting through the subsoil.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins, assisted by Anthony Beechy, Sarah Foster and Jon Pick. The report was written by Daniel Sausins. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Daniel Sausins, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

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- Bryant, V. 2004 'Medieval and early post-medieval pottery', in Dalwood, H. and Edwards, R. 2004, 281-339.

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Vince, A. G. *Guide to the Pottery of Gloucester*. Unpublished type fabric series.

Webster, P. 1996. *Roman Samian Pottery in Britain*. Practical Handbook in Archaeology 13. York. Council for British Archaeology.



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Gray brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.15	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil/ploughsoil	Gray brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.39	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Blue grey clay	50	1.8		
1	103	Fill	105	Ditch Fill	Upper fill: dark grey brown silt clay with occasional small rounded stones	>1.85	1.74	0.11	
1	104	Fill	105	Ditch Fill	Lower fill: light grey yellow silt clay	>1.85	1.74	0.05	
1	105	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW linear with steep-shallow sides and concave base	>1.85	1.74	0.16	
1	106	Fill	107	Modern infill	Dark demolition rubble				Modern
1	107	Cut		Possible former pond					Modern
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	As 100	50	1.8	0.26	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil/ploughsoil	As 101	50	1.8	0.33	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Yellow brown clay/blue grey clay	50	1.8	>0.59	
2	203	Cut		Ditch			3	1	
2	204	Fill	203	Ditch fill	Dark black brown clay silt		3	1	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	As 100	50	1.8	0.26	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil/ploughsoil	As 101	50	1.8	0.3	
3	302	Layer		Natural	As 202	50	1.8		
3	303	Cut		Furrow	NE/SW shallow linear	>1	0.63	0.05	
3	304	Fill	303	Furrow fill	Light orange grey sand silt with occasional pebbles	>1	0.63	0.05	C13-14
3	305	Cut		Posthole	Irregular square cut in plan with steep sides and flat base	0.3	0.3	0.06	
3	306	Fill	305	Posthole fill	Orange brown sand silt	0.3	0.3	0.06	
3	307	Cut		Postpad	Sub-square in plan with vertical sides and flat base	0.37	0.37	0.12	
3	308	Struct	307	Postpad	Two bricks side by side	0.24	0.12	0.08	
3	309	Fill	307	Postpad fill	Grey Brown sand silt	0.3	0.3	0.02	
3	310	Fill	307	Postpad fill	Yellow grey silt clay	0.3	0.3	0.04	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	As 100	50	1.8	0.27	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil/ploughsoil	As 101	50	1.8	0.5	
4	402	Layer		Natural	As 202	50	1.8	>0.23	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	As 100	50	1.8	0.23	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil/ploughsoil	As 101	50	1.8	0.34	
5	502	Layer		Natural	As 202	50	1.8	>0.18	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	As 100	50	1.8	0.15	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil/ploughsoil	As 101	50	1.8	0.32	
6	602	Layer		Natural	As 202	50	1.8	>0.18	

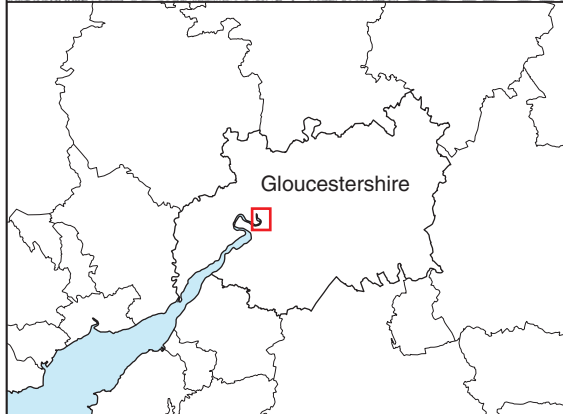
6	603	Cut		Treethrow	Sub-circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and an uneven base	1.25	>0.75	0.15	
6	604	Fill	303	Treethrow fill	Orange brown clay sand	1.25	>0.75	0.15	
6	605	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW linear with moderately sloping sides and rounded base	>1.85	0.6	0.27	
6	606	Fill	605	Ditch fill	Light orange brown clay sand	>1.85	0.6	0.27	C2
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	As 100	50	1.8	0.32	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil/ploughs oil	As 101	50	1.8	0.26	
7	702	Layer		Natural	As 202	50	1.8		
7	703	Fill	704	Treethrow fill	Red brown sand silt	0.93	0.7	0.09	
7	704	Cut		Treethrow	Oval in plan with irregular sides and base	0.93	0.7	0.09	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	As 100	50	1.8		
8	801	Layer		Subsoil/ploughs oil	As 101	50	1.8		
8	802	Layer		Natural	As 202	50	1.8		
8	803	Cut		Furrow	NE/SW linear with shallow sides	>1.8	6	0.28	
8	804	Fill	803	Furrow fill	orange grey sand silt	>1.8	6	0.28	C14-15

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
304	Medieval pottery: Malvernian unglazed ware	4	65	C13-C14
	Medieval pottery: Malvernian glazed ware	1		
310	Iron object: nail	4	53	-
606	Roman pottery: Samian ware	1	0	C2
804	Medieval pottery: Worcester type glazed ware	1	15	C14-C15
	CBM	1	28	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land East of Hempsted Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2014 at Land East of Hempsted Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Eight trenches were excavated. Two undated ditches, a posthole, a post-medieval postpad and boundary ditch were identified along with ridge and furrow and a possible pond.	
Project dates	25-27 February 2014	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk based assessment: RPS 2013 Geopycial Survey: GSB 2013	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land East of Hempsted Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8175 1705	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Daniel Sausins	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Pottery
Paper	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Context sheets, trench sheets, section drawings
Digital	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land East of Hempsted Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14048		



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Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Hempsted Lane, Gloucester
 Gloucestershire

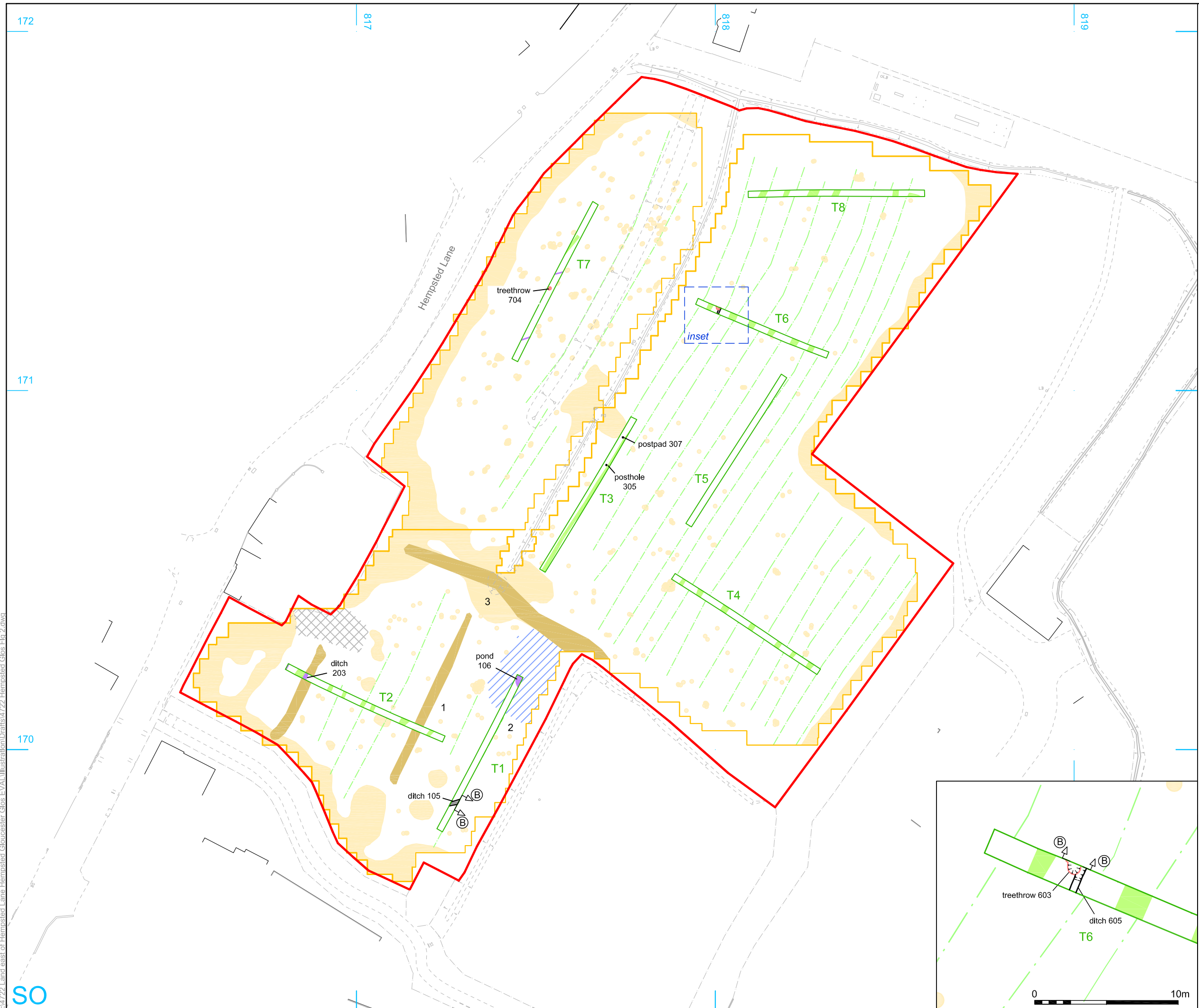
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

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PROJECT NO. 4722 DATE 05-03-2014
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FIGURE NO.
1



- ▬ site
 - ▬ evaluation trench
 - archaeological feature
 - ▬ furrow
 - ▬ modern
 - ▬ treethrow
- Geophysical Survey Key (Stratascan)**
- ▬ ridge and furrow
 - ferrous
 - pond/demolished building
 - Magnetic disturbance
 - former field boundary



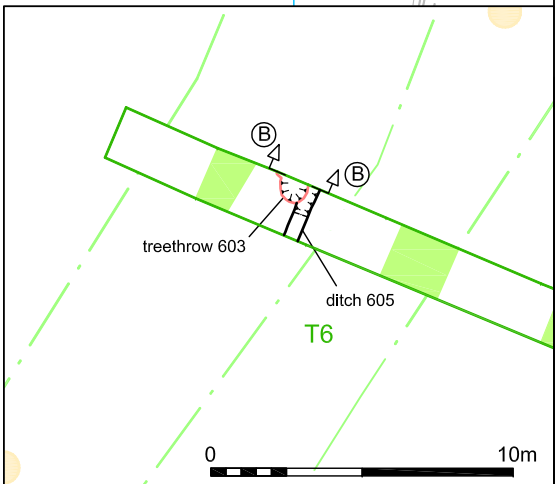
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Cotswold Archaeology
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land east of Hempsted Lane, Gloucester Gloucestershire

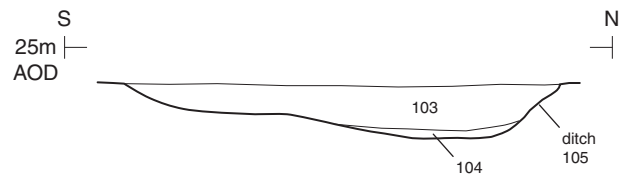
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

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 171
 170
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Section AA



Ditch 105, looking west (scale 0.5m)



Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 218320
Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Hempsted Lane, Gloucester
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1; section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

3



Postpad 307, looking north-east (scale 0.3m)



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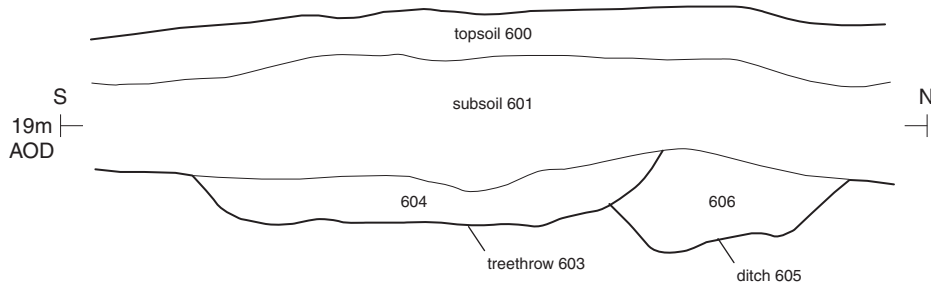
Land east of Hempsted Lane, Gloucester
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3; photograph

PROJECT NO.	4722	DATE	05-03-2014	FIGURE NO.
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Section BB



Ditch 605 and treethrow 603, looking north (scale 1m)



Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 218320
Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 6; section and photograph

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