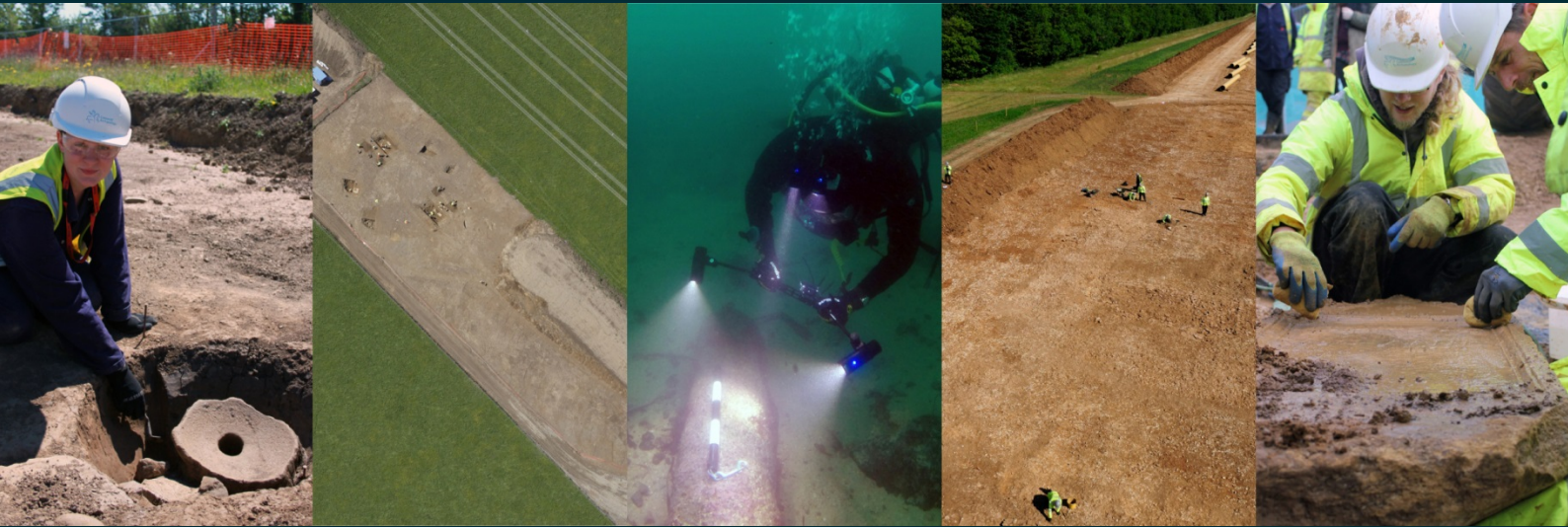


# Land at Lower Stanley Farm Alderton Gloucestershire

## *Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
**Gretton Solar Farm Ltd**

CA Project: 5289  
CA Report: 15243

May 2015



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## Archaeological Evaluation

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land at Lower Stanley Farm
<b>Location:</b>	Alderton, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SO 9975 3180
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	27 April – 8 May 2015
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery
<b>Site Code:</b>	LSFA 15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between April and May 2015 of land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton, Gloucestershire. Twenty-four trenches were excavated.

Several Iron Age/Early Roman pits and ditches were identified which probably relate to a previously known, but undated, enclosure complex which lies just outside the site to the east. These appear to mark the western extent of the enclosure identified through cropmarks and geophysical survey.

A post-medieval/modern ditch was identified in the location of an enclosure depicted on a first edition (1884) Ordnance Survey map of the area.

Two undated ditches were revealed in the western part of the site and one in the eastern part of the site. It remains uncertain what these ditches relate to.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between April and May 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Gretton Solar Farm Ltd (the client) on land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9975 3180; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a future planning application for the construction of solar farm.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015a) and approved by Charles Parry, Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Officer (GCCAO) and archaeological advisor to Tewkesbury Borough Council. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), *the Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Field Work 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 Charles Parry.

### **The site**

- 1.3 The proposed development site is located c. 1km south of Alderton, 230m north of Lower Stanley Farm. It is approximately 12 ha in area, although the developable area is c.11 ha in size. An area of c.1ha in the north-west corner of the site is to be set aside for landscaping. The site is situated across two agricultural fields, which are currently in arable cultivation. A sub-station connection cable route, approximately 250m in length x 15m wide is proposed in the field to the east of the main site running in a west to east direction toward the main road. An L-shaped access route c.550m in length is being proposed to the south of the main site.
- 1.4 The proposed development site is generally flat, with a slight rise to the east. The eastern field is bounded by hedgerows on its southern, eastern and northern sides, with a small brook running along its western edge. This brook comprises the eastern and northern boundaries of the western field, which is further bounded by hedgerows to the south and by another stream to the west.
- 1.5 Ground level within the proposed development site lies at approximately 50m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The topography of the proposed development site is

largely flat, with a slight rise to the east. The underlying solid geology of the proposed development site is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2015). A yellowish blue clay was encountered within all the trenches apart from Trenches 21 and 22 in which the natural substrate was orange sand and gravels.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site has been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (CA 2015b), and a geophysical survey (SS 2015) a summary of which is presented below.

### ***Prehistoric (pre – AD 43) and Roman periods (AD 43 – c. AD 410)***

2.2 Undated crop-marks are recorded on an aerial photograph within the field immediately to the east of the proposed development site and were also identified during the geophysical survey. These potentially represent an east/west-orientated enclosure of elongated form, with internal divisions, and may be of prehistoric or likely Iron Age/Romano-British origin but have not previously been excavated.

2.3 Two possible Iron Age hill forts, Dixton Hill Camp and The Knolls Camp, are recorded in the wider area, c. 1.2km south-west and 2km west of the site respectively. Dixton Hill Camp is a possible example of an Iron Age hill fort that has later been superseded by a medieval motte and bailey. The Knolls Camp is located on Oxenton Hill, to the north-west of Dixton Hill Camp. The Knolls Camp has been confirmed as the location of Iron Age settlement, attested by the presence of large quantities of Iron Age pottery.

2.4 An Iron Age pit was identified 400m to the north of the site during a watching brief (Goult 1995) along with unstratified flint artefacts. These isolated finds and features indicate later prehistoric activity in this area.

2.5 The fieldname 'Barrowdine', is recorded c. 450m to the south of the site, and may relate to a previously extant tumulus or barrow in the vicinity, which is no longer visible.

**Early medieval (AD 410 – 1066) and medieval periods (1066 – 1539)**

- 2.6 The site is historically situated within the parish of Alderton, the main settlement of which is located c. 1km to the north. The site most probably comprised part of the agricultural hinterland of this settlement. Extensive remains of ridge and furrow earthworks are visible across on 1940s aerial photographs within the site.
- 2.7 In the area, the Motte and Bailey castle at Dixton Hill Camp demonstrates medieval defensive activity in the area. The fieldname 'Hillburrow', approximately 400m to the north-east of site, may indicate the presence of medieval or post-medieval pillow mounds (rabbit warrens) in this area

**Post-medieval (1540 – 1800) and modern periods (1810 – present)**

- 2.8 The proposed development site most probably continued to form part of the agricultural hinterland of Alderton village into the post-medieval period. The earliest available cartographic source which depicts the proposed development site is an 1807 map of Alderton. The 1807 map depicts the site as being situated across three fields, with a road or track running east to west along the southern boundary, and divided by a watercourse, running south to north. In the 1884 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, the land is now divided into two fields, with a small building at the south-eastern corner of the eastern field. This building and its adjacent trackway survive until the time of the 1955 Ordnance Survey Map and then disappear in later editions.

**Geophysical Survey**

- 2.9 A detailed gradiometry survey was conducted over approximately 11.4ha of the site. The survey included a proposed alternative northern route for the sub-station cable. However, due to the extensive potential archaeological remains indicated by the geophysical survey (which supported the previously identified cropmarks) it was recommended by the GCCAO that this area should be avoided where an alternative option i.e. the southern route was available which would have less impact on the archaeological resource.
- 2.10 The survey identified and enhanced an area of settlement activity reflecting the cropmarks noted in the desk-based assessment, an area of ridge and furrow cultivation, and a former enclosure present on mapping until 1955. A number of possible archaeological anomalies have also been identified, however these could relate to agricultural activity or be of natural origin. The remaining anomalies are of



modern origin, relating to agricultural activity, scattered magnetic debris, ferrous objects and fencing.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable Tewkesbury Borough Council 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).

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a total of 24 trenches: Four measuring 25m by 2m and 20 measuring 50m by 2m. The trenches were located to target anomalies identified in the geophysical survey as well as to provide a random sample of the site. 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*.
- 4.2 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*.
- 4.3 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* 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*.

- 4.4 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 Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2- 13)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and faunal remains are to be found in Appendices A to C respectively.
- 5.2 The natural substrate was encountered within all the trenches at an average depth of 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl) with the exception of Trenches 11 and 17 which were deeper at 0.85m bpgl. Throughout the site the natural substrate was overlain by subsoil which was in turn sealed by topsoil. Furrows were identified within Trenches 11 to 19 and Trench 23. All archaeological features, unless otherwise stated, were sealed beneath the subsoil horizon.

### ***Trench 3 & 4 (Figs 2, 3 & 8)***

- 5.3 An undated ditch, 303, was identified within the western end of Trench 3 on an approximate north-south alignment which broadly correlates to an anomaly identified in the geophysical survey. Ditch 303 was filled with orange brown silt clay, 304, which contained fragments of heat affected clay and large fragments of burnt timber.
- 5.4 At the southern end of Trench 4 a similarly filled ditch, 404 was identified on a north-west/south-east alignment. It's fill, 403, also contained heat affected clay and large fragments of burnt timber. No linear geophysical anomalies are present within Trench 4 however a magnetic spike was noted during the geophysical survey in the same location as ditch 404. Ditch 404 may be a continuation of ditch 303 however this remains uncertain and is solely based on the similarity in composition of the fill of each ditch.



### **Trench 13, 14 & 15 (Figs 2, 4, 5, 9, 10 & 11)**

- 5.4 Within Trenches 13, 14 and 15 archaeological features that had been targeted on the results of the geophysical survey were identified. These are likely to represent a continuation and the western extremity of an extensive enclosure complex evident as cropmarks and as identified during the geophysical survey in the field to the east of these trenches.
- 5.5 Towards the eastern end of Trench 13 ditch 1303 was identified filled by a grey brown silt clay, 1304, which produced four sherds of pottery dating to the mid to late 1st-century. Ditch 1303 roughly correlates with a geophysical anomaly which runs on approximately the same alignment as ditch 1303.
- 5.6 Two large pits 1403 and 1408 were partially exposed within the north-eastern half of Trench 14 they were filled by 1404 and 1407 respectively. The fills of both pits comprised dark grey brown silt clay. Curvilinear ditch 1405 was identified cutting the south-western edge of pit fill 1404. Ditch 1405 was filled by 1406, a dark grey brown silt clay which produced Iron Age pottery.
- 5.7 A curving ditch, 1503 and 1507 was identified in the north-western part of Trench 15 which correlated closely with a curving geophysical anomaly. The ditch was filled by dark brownish grey silt clay, 1504 and 1508 respectively, which is similar in appearance to the fills of pits 1403 and 1408 and ditch 1405 within Trench 14. Late first to secondary century Roman pottery was recovered from fill 1504.
- 5.8 Located to the north-west of curvilinear ditch 1503/1507 was ditch terminus 1511, filled by 1512, a brownish grey silt clay which remained unexcavated, but which is likely to be associated with the other features in Trench 15 and date to the Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British period.
- 5.9 Ditches 1505 and 1509, both north-east/south-west oriented, were identified within the south-eastern half of Trench 15. Ditch 1505 was filled by 1506 and ditch 1509 by 1510. Both fills comprised grey brown silt clay, distinctly different in appearance to the fills of ditch 1503/1507. Ditch 1505 was excavated and produced animal bone only. Ditch 1509, which remains unexcavated, had a smaller 'spur' on its north-western edge which terminated after 3.3m. The orientation of these ditches at right angles and parallel ('spur') to the existing field system along with the nature of their

fills may suggest that these features are more recent in date and possibly medieval or post medieval in date.

### ***Trench 16 (Figs 2 & 4)***

- 5.10 Ditch 1604 was identified towards the eastern end of Trench 16, cutting from the top of the subsoil horizon. It was filled by 1603, a dark grey clay silt which contained fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) and late 18th to 19th-century pottery and glass.

### ***Trench 19***

- 5.11 Pit 1906 was identified towards to southern end of Trench 19. It contained 3 fills, the earliest, 1905 comprised green brown silt clay and produced Iron Age pottery. Covering fill 1905 was fill 1904 a light brown grey silt clay which in turn was covered by 1903, a dark brown grey silt clay which produced Middle Iron Age pottery.
- 5.12 In the northern end of Trench 19 ditch terminus 1910 was identified. It was filled by 1909, a dark brown grey sandy clay and was not excavated during this evaluation. The nature of its fill however would suggest though that it could be related in date to Pit 1906.

### ***Trench 22***

- 5.13 Ditch 2203 was identified towards the south-western end of Trench 22. It was filled by 2204, a light grey brown silt clay. The ditch is within an area of weak magnetic response detected during the geophysical survey.

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Artefactual material from evaluation was hand-recovered from eight deposits: ditch fills, pit fills and subsoil. The recovered material dates to the Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval periods. Quantities of the artefact types recovered are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Recording also included vessel form/rim morphology and any evidence for use in the form of carbonised/other residues (although none was apparent). Roman and post-medieval fabric codes are equated to the Gloucester pottery type series as

defined by Vince (unpublished) where possible; where applicable, National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B (Tomber and Dore 1998).

## 6.2 **Pottery**

### *Late Prehistoric*

A total of 45 sherds (282g) was recorded in three deposits: fill 1406 of ditch 1405, and fills 1903 and 1905 of pit 1906. The context groups are small to medium, with four to 27 sherds per deposit. A moderate degree of fragmentation is evidenced by the average sherd weight of 6g.

The majority of late prehistoric pottery presents in coarse shell or shell-and-limestone tempered fabrics and none features decoration. The bodysherds from fills 1406 and 1905 are dated to the Iron Age on the basis of fabric/firing characteristics and wall thickness. The pottery from fill 1903 includes rimsherds from: a vessel with an internally thickened rim; a barrel-shaped jar with an upright, flattened rim; and a barrel-shaped jar with an upright rim with slight internal bevelling just below the rim. The latter two are typical Middle Iron Age forms.

A fragment of probable Droitwich briquetage was retrieved from fill 1903 of pit 1906. This fabric was used to manufacture vessels used for the extraction and transport of salt throughout the Iron Age.

### *Roman*

Roman pottery totalling 18 sherds (312g) was recovered from four deposits. Material from subsoil 1101 and fill 1603 of ditch 1604 is residual. Pottery groups from fill 1304 of ditch 1303 and fill 1504 of ditch 1503 are small, although the sherds are not heavily abraded or fragmented, and the spot dates can be regarded as reliable *termini post quo*.

Fill 1304 of ditch 1303 produced a single rimsherd from a 'tubby cooking pot' in handmade Malvernian igneous/metamorphic rock-tempered ware (TF18; Peacock's Group A) (Peacock 1968, 415). The date range for this pottery type extends from the Middle Iron Age to the 2nd century AD. The 'tubby cooking pot' is a typical form across the Early Roman period, c. mid 1st to 2nd centuries (Peacock 1967).

The most commonly represented fabric type is Severn Valley (oxidised) ware and a single sherd in a reduced, charcoal-tempered variant (TF17) is also present. The latter is a rimsherd from a narrow-mouthed, necked jar. These types of pottery are commonly found in north Gloucestershire. Severn Valley Oxidised/Reduced wares were produced throughout the Roman period (Webster 1976) and the charcoal-tempered variants are common to the 1st to 2nd centuries.

The remainder of the coarsewares are of probable local manufacture: greyware (TF20) from fill 1504 of ditch 1503 (from a necked jar); and grog-tempered (TF2) and black-firing, sand-tempered fabrics (TF20) from fill 1304 of ditch 1303. The greyware is of broad Romano-British date, the grog-tempered fabric is dateable to the 1st century AD and the black sandy fabric to the late 1st to 2nd centuries.

The only regional import is a base sherd from a vessel in Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (TF12) which was recovered as a residual find in post-medieval/modern dated fill 1603 of ditch 1604: the condition is poor and most of the surface slip has been lost. This ware type is dateable to the mid 2nd to 4th centuries and was manufactured at sites in Cambridgeshire (Tomber and Dore 1998, 119).

#### *Post-medieval/modern*

A total of four sherds (45g) was retrieved from two deposits. The sherds from fill 1603 of ditch 1604 are in very good condition however, that from subsoil 1701 is moderately abraded and missing most of the glaze. The fabrics represented are: Glazed earthenware (TF50), dateable to the mid 16th to 18th centuries; and refined whiteware (TF69), of late 18th to 19th century date.

#### **Other finds**

- 6.3 Fill 1603 of ditch 1604 produced five fragments of glass of post-medieval date. Identifiable vessels are a wine/spirits bottle in dark green-coloured glass and a pharmaceutical bottle in natural green-coloured glass.

A fragment from a moderately corroded, strip-like iron object was recorded in fill 1903 of pit 1905. The original form of the object cannot be ascertained.



## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### *Animal Bone*

- 7.1 A collection of animal bones numbering 78 fragments (1860g) was recovered by hand excavation from five deposits. The bones were generally well-preserved, but highly fragmented showing signs of exposure to the elements as well as historic and modern damage. This has rendered 60% of the assemblage unidentifiable beyond the level of 'large' or 'medium mammal'. For the purpose of this report, the bones were identified to species and skeletal element using an osteological reference collection (Cotswold Archaeology Ltd) and quantified by fragment count and weight. Where modern breakage was observed and re-fitting was possible, those fragments were recorded as a single bone. Any material not confidently phased is not discussed beyond the details set out in Appendix C.

### *Iron Age*

- 7.2 A total of 56 fragments (769g) of bone were recovered from the fill of ditch 1405 and pit 1906 in association with Iron Age artefacts. It was possible to identify the remains of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries*) and horse (*Equus caballus*), all from meat-poor skeletal elements such as the skull and lower limb bones.

### *Roman*

- 7.3 The Roman activity on site produced 21 fragments (1067g) of bone recovered from the fills of ditches 1303 and 1503. Cattle, sheep/goat and horse were once again identified from fragments of the skull and lower limbs.
- 7.4 Although no cut marks were observed in either the Iron Age or Roman assemblage, the presence of mainly meat-poor skeletal elements are indicative of primary butchery waste i.e. the preparation of a carcass after slaughter, however although no physical remains were recovered, it is likely that dogs (*Canis familiaris*) were also present on site taken from the fact that much of the assemblage had clearly been gnawed. This should be considered along with the fact that the identified species are represented by the more robust skeletal elements. Therefore a taphonomic bias in the results cannot be ruled out



## 8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The results from the archaeological evaluation generally show a good correlation between the geophysical results and archaeological features subsequently revealed. The survival of the features encountered during the evaluation was generally good. The earliest features, encountered within Trenches 13, 14 and 15, can be broadly dated to the Iron Age/Early Roman periods. The post-medieval period, except for furrows, is represented in Trench 16 only. Undated features were encountered within Trenches 3, 4 and 22. Undated and unexcavated features within Trenches 14, 15 and 19 can tentatively be dated by association with nearby dated features which are similar in form and appearance.

### *Iron Age & Early Roman*

8.2 It is probable that ditches identified within Trenches 13, 14 and 15 represent a continuation of, or the western extremity of, the enclosure complex evident as cropmarks and identified during the geophysical survey. Ditch 1304, dated to the mid to late 2nd-century, may form the westernmost part of the enclosure. Ditches 1503, 1507, and 1511 may form internal divisions within this enclosure or may represent several different phases of enclosure ditches. Ditches 1505 and 1509 may also belong to this period, but their distinctively different fills which are more sterile and their orientation to the existing field system may indicate that belong to a later period. As only small sections of these ditches were exposed during the evaluation this interpretation remains tentative. What can be said with some certainty is that at least the western part of the previously undated enclosure complex is likely to have a transitional date from the Iron Age to Early Roman period.

8.3 The evaluation also identified outlying Iron Age activity within Trench 19, approximately 350m to the south of the enclosure complex. Pottery recovered from pit 1906 has Iron Age and Middle Iron Age dates attributed to it. Ditch 1910 can, with some certainty, be dated by association to these periods, particularly as the fills of both features are so similar. No other activity has been identified by the geophysical survey in this area which makes any further interpretation impossible.

8.2 The Iron Age/Early Roman activity appears to be limited to the upper slopes and higher ground of the site, particularly where the clay natural substrate changes to become sands and gravel. The remainder of the site is likely to have been prone to flooding and unsuitable for settlement.



***Post-medieval/modern***

- 8.6 Ditch 1604 in Trench 16 produced pottery, glass and CBM dating from the late 18th to early 19th-century. The ditch broadly correlates with an enclosure depicted on the 1884 Ordinance Survey map. The presence of CBM within the ditch fill and scattered magnetic debris to the east of Trench 16 may be suggestive of a building within this part of the site, although no foundations were encountered during the evaluation.
- 8.7 Ditches 1505 and 1509 although undated may also belong to this period, due to their orientation to the existing field system and their distinctively different fills to features dated to the Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British period within Trench 15. However this interpretation remains tentative.

***Undated***

- 8.7 Ditch 303 and 404, in Trenches 3 and 4 respectively were both undated. The similarity in composition of their fills suggest that they are both contemporary, however it is uncertain whether ditch 404 is a continuation of ditch 303.
- 8.9 The undated ditch within Trench 22 has the potential to be associated with the Iron Age/Early Roman enclosure to the north. However, this remains unproven.

***Possible mitigation measures***

- 8.10 Due to the potential of the archaeology revealed in Trenches 13 to 15 and its relationship to and being part of the probable Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure to the east of the site it is possible that mitigation measures will be required to mitigate against the impact of the development on the archaeological resource. Following initial consultation with Charles Parry the GCCAO, it has been indicated that non – intrusive methods such as concrete shoes may be required in this part of the site. A provisional mitigation area for non-intrusive methods of construction has been indicated on Figs 2, 4 and 5. The final size and scope of this area will need to be established in consultation with the client and the GCCAO acting on behalf of the LPA.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill, assisted by Luke Brannlund, Andy Hurst and Sian Reynish. The report was written by Tom Weavill. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Somerville and Andy Clark respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavill, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa

## 10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html)

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Brownish grey silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.2	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.2	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid greyish blue clay with occasional limestone flecks				
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.2	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.25	
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.2	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.4	
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
3	303	Cut		Ditch	North/south oriented ditch	>1.8	1.2	0.25	
3	304	Fill	303	Ditch fill	Orangey brown silty clay with burnt clay and charcoal fragments	>1.8	1.2	0.25	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.2	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.25	
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
4	403	Fill	404	Ditch fill	Orangey brown silty clay with burnt clay and charcoal fragments	>1.8	3	0.21	
4	404	Cut		Ditch	North-west/south-east oriented ditch	>1.8	3	0.21	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.28	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.2	
5	502	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.17	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.21	
6	602	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.25	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.2	
7	702	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.25	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.25	
8	802	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.2	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.2	
9	902	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.3	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.3	
10	1002	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.3	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.5	
11	1102	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.2	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.3	
12	1202	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.32	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.38	
13	1302	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
13	1303	Cut		Ditch	North-west/south-east oriented ditch	>1.8	2.27	0.28	
13	1304	Fill	1303	Ditch fill	Greyish brown silty clay	>1.8	2.27	0.28	MLC1
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.36	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.30	
14	1402	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
14	1403	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular pit	>2.7	>1.8	>0.16	
14	1404	Fill	1403	Pit fill	Greyish brown silty clay mixed with redeposited natural	>2.7	>1.8	>0.16	
14	1405	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear ditch	>1.8	>2.15	0.46	
14	1406	Fill	1405	Ditch fill	Dark grey silty clay	>1.8	>2.15	0.46	IA
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.2	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.4	
15	1502	Layer		Natural substrate	Greyish blue clay with occasional gravel patches				
15	1503	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear ditch	>2	2.6	0.3	
15	1504	Fill	1503	Ditch fill	Dark brownish grey silty clay	>2	2.6	0.3	LC1-C2
15	1505	Cut		Ditch	East-west aligned ditch	>1.8	0.95	0.15	
15	1506	Fill	1505	Ditch fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>1.8	0.95	0.15	
15	1507	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear ditch. Not excavated	>1.8	6		
15	1508	Fill	1507	Ditch fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Not excavated	>1.8	6		
15	1509	Cut		Ditch	Right angled ditch. Not excavated	>1.8	1		
15	1510	Fill	1509	Ditch fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Not excavated	>1.8	1		
15	1511	Cut		Ditch terminus	Terminus of north-east/south-west aligned ditch. Not excavated	>0.5	0.4		
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.33	
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.33	
16	1602	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
16	1603	Fill		Ditch fill	Dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent CBM frags	>1.8	7.2	>0.17	LC18-C19
16	1604	Cut		Ditch	North-east/south-west aligned ditch. Not fully excavated.	>1.8	7.2	>0.17	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.25	
17	1701	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.52	
17	1702	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>25	>1.8	0.3	
18	1801	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>25	>1.8	0.4	
18	1802	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.3	
19	1901	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.2	
19	1902	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102				
19	1903	Fill	1906	Pit fill	3rd fill of pit: Dark brownish grey silty clay	>1.5	>1.8	0.45	MIA
19	1904	Fill	1906	Pit fill	2nd fill of pit: Light brownish grey/yellow mottled	>0.5	0.55	0.19	
19	1905	Fill	1906	Pit fill	1st fill of pit: Mid greenish brown silty clay	>1.5	>1.65	0.23	IA
19	1906	Cut		Pit	Cut of pit not fully exposed within trench	>1.8	>1.8	0.45	
19	1909	Fill	1910	Ditch fill	Dark brownish grey sandy clay. Not excavated	>1.8	0.6		
19	1910	Cut		Ditch	Straight ditch terminus. Not excavated	>1.8	0.6		
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>25	>1.8	0.2	
20	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>25	>1.8	0.2	
20	2002	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102: With band of sand across middle of trench				
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.3	
21	2101	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>50	>1.8	0.15	
21	2102	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellowish brown sand and gravel				
22	2200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>50	>1.8	0.26	
22	2201	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	>50	>1.8	0.22	
22	2202	Layer		Natural substrate	Orangey brown clayey sand with occasional gravel patches				
22	2203	Cut		Ditch	Cut of north-west/south-east aligned ditch	>1.8	1.65	0.2	
22	2204	Fill	2203	Ditch fill	Light greyish brown silty clay	>1.8	1.65	0.2	
23	2300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>25	>1.8	0.24	
23	2301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>25	>1.8	0.22	
23	2302	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2202				
24	2400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	>25	>1.8	0.22	
24	2401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	>25	>1.8	0.26	
24	2402	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2202				

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1101	Roman pottery	<b>SVW OX</b>	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	2	23	RB
1304	Late prehistoric/Early Roman pottery	TF18/ <b>MAL REA</b>	Malvernian rock- tempered	1	8	MC1-LC1
	Roman pottery	<b>SVW OX2</b>	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	1	1	
	Roman pottery	TF20	Black-firing, sand- tempered ware	1	3	
	Roman pottery	TF2	Grog-tempered	1	83	
1406	Late prehistoric pottery	CSH	Coarse shell-tempered	14	26	IA
	Fired clay			7	9	
1504	Roman pottery	<b>SVW OX2</b>	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	4	13	LC1-C2
	Roman pottery	TF17	Severn Valley (reduced, charcoal-tempered) ware	1	106	
	Roman pottery	TF20	Greyware	6	49	
1603	Roman pottery	TF12/ <b>LVN CC</b>	Lower Nene Valley Colour-coated ware	1	26	LC18-C19
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	TF69	Refined whiteware	3	31	
	Post-medieval glass		Wine/spirits bottle; pharmaceutical bottle	5	80	
	Fired clay			2	9	
1701	Post-medieval pottery	TF50	Glazed earthenware	1	14	MC16-C18
1903	Late prehistoric pottery	CSL	Coarse shell-and- limestone tempered	24	186	MIA
	Late prehistoric pottery	FQZ	Fine, quartz sand- tempered	2	7	
	Late prehistoric pottery	DBR	Droitwich briquetage	1	37	
	Fired clay			14	50	
	Iron object		Fragmentary	1	6	
1905	Late prehistoric pottery	CSH	Coarse shell-tempered	4	26	IA

\* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

**APPENDIX C: THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**

Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

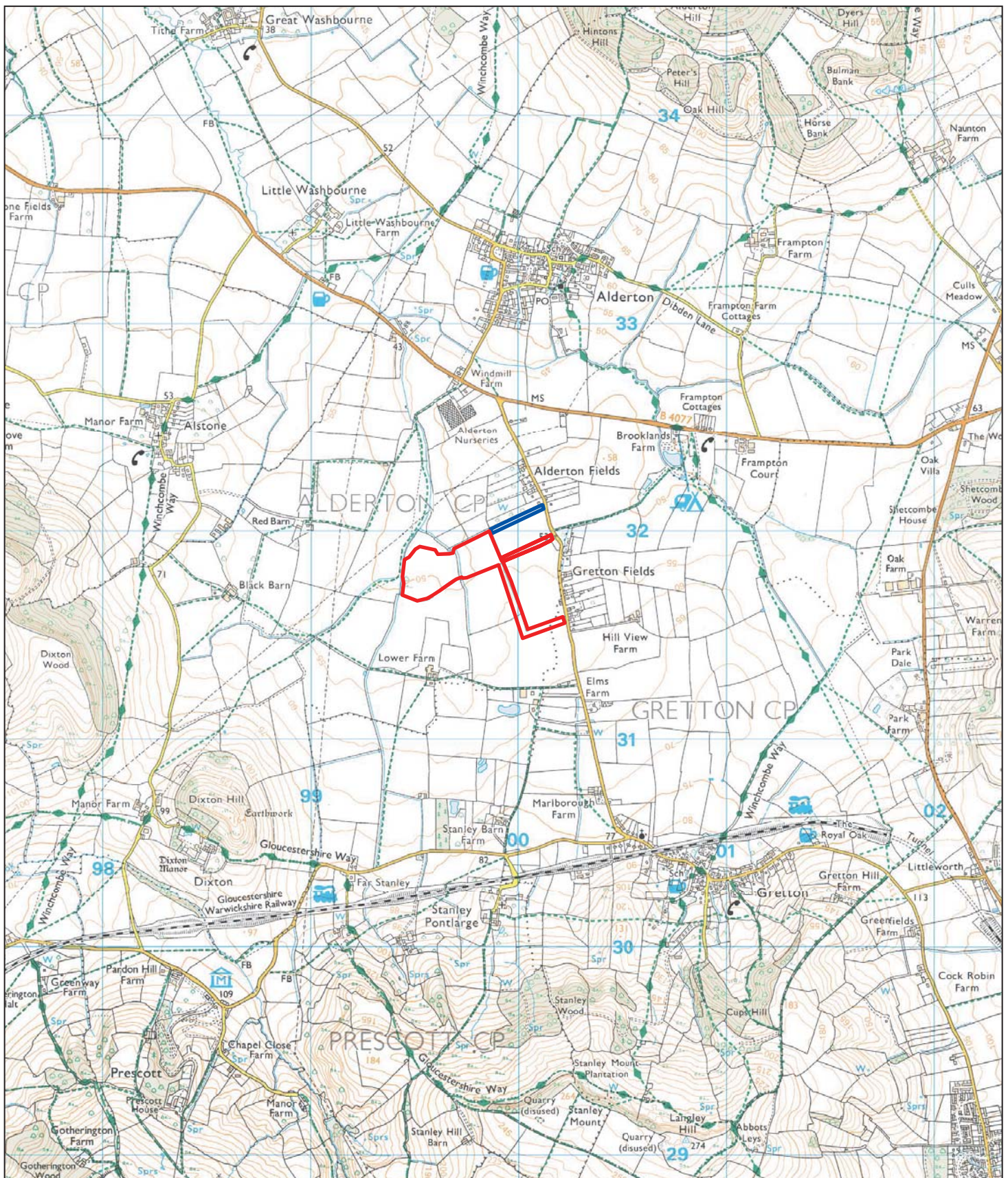
Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	EQ	LM	MM	Total	Weight (g)
<b>Iron Age</b>								
1405	1406	4		1	2	10	17	243
1906	1903	7	5		1	24	37	521
1906	1905				2		2	5
<b>subtotal</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>769</b>
<b>Roman</b>								
1303	1304	1	1	3		4	9	69
1503	1504	6	2		4		12	998
<b>subtotal</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1067</b>
<b>undated</b>								
1505	1506			1			1	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>78</b>	
<b>Weight</b>		<b>1396</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1860</b>	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; EQ = horse; LM= large-sized mammal; MM = medium-sized mammal

## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between April and May 2015 of land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton, Gloucestershire. Twenty-four trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Several Iron Age/Early Roman pits and ditches were identified which probably relate to a previously known, but undated, enclosure complex which lies just outside the site to the east. These appear to mark the western extent of the enclosure identified through cropmarks and geophysical survey.</p> <p>A post-medieval/modern ditch was identified in the location of an enclosure depicted on a first edition (1884) Ordnance Survey map of the area.</p> <p>Two undated ditches were revealed in the western part of the site and one in the eastern part of the site. It remains uncertain what these ditches relate to.</p>	
Project dates	27 April – 8 May 2015	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2015), Geophysical Survey (Stratascan 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	12ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 9975 3180	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Tom Weavill	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery	Pottery, bone
Paper	Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery	Context sheets, trench sheets, photo registers, permatrace drawings.
Digital	Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>15243</b> . Project No. <b>5289</b>		





- site boundary
- area excluded from development

0 1km

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Exeter 01392 826185  
Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
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**PROJECT TITLE**

Land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton  
Gloucestershire

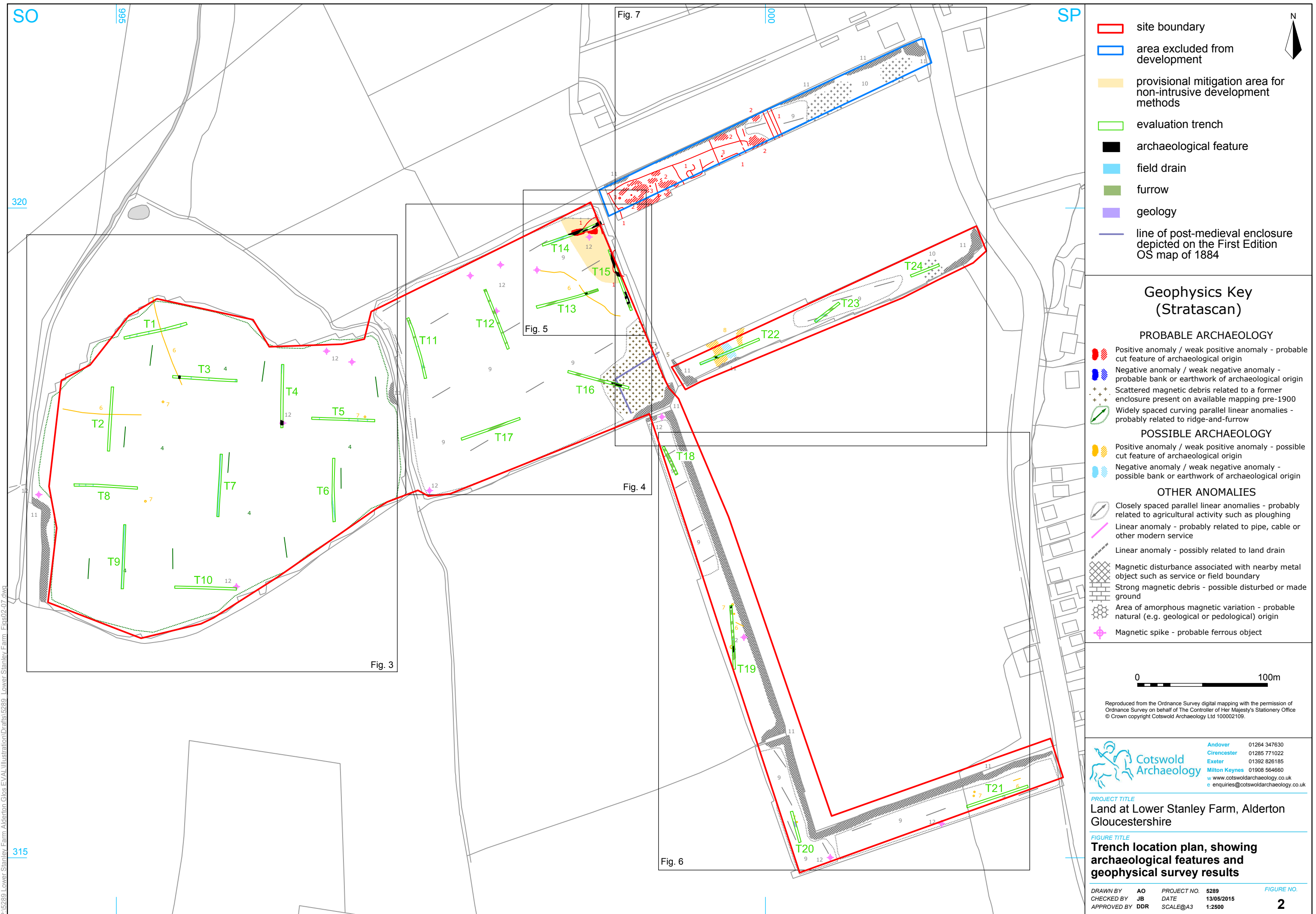
**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan

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FIGURE NO.

1



### Geophysics Key (Stratascan)

**PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY**

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Scattered magnetic debris related to a former enclosure present on available mapping pre-1900
- Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow

**POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY**

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin

**OTHER ANOMALIES**

- Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
- Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
- Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
- Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
- Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
- Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
- Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

0 100m

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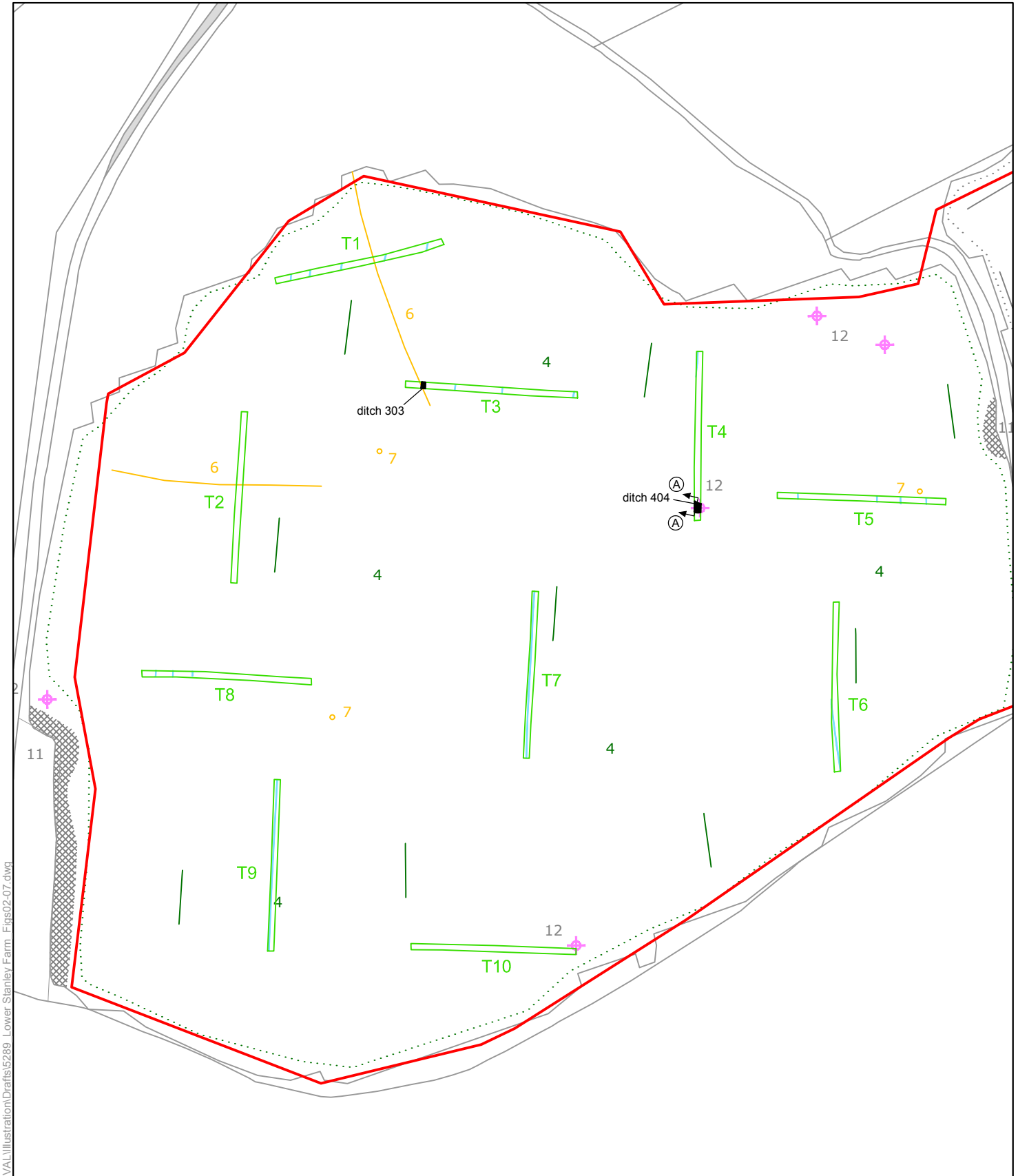
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 Exeter 01392 826185  
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 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton  
 Gloucestershire

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

**DRAWN BY** AO **PROJECT NO.** 5289 **FIGURE NO.**  
**CHECKED BY** JB **DATE** 13/05/2015 **2**  
**APPROVED BY** DDR **SCALE@A3** 1:2500

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- field drain
- section location



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Trenches 1 - 10, showing  
 archaeological features and  
 geophysical survey results**

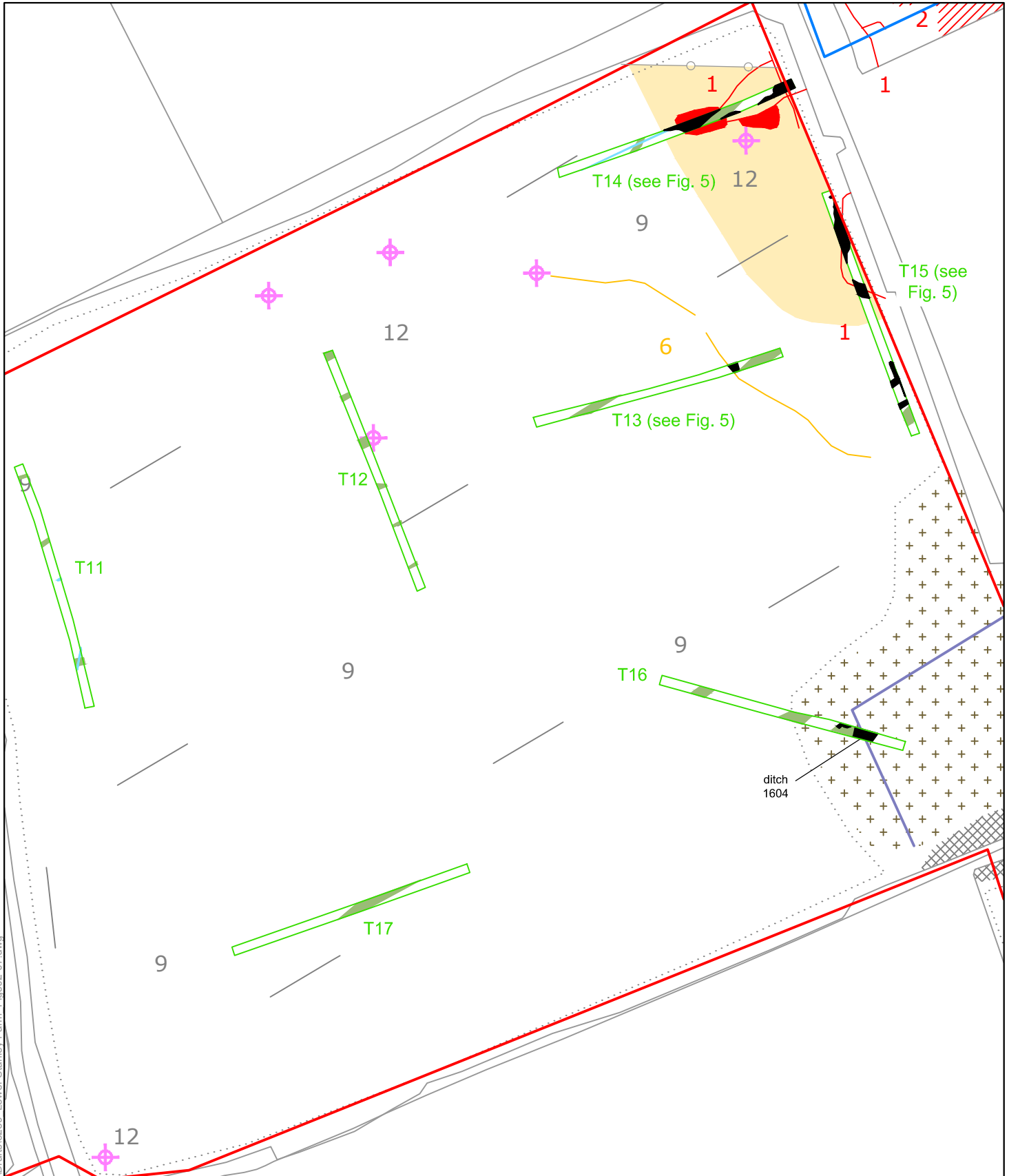
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FIGURE NO.

**3**



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site boundary

provisional mitigation area for non-intrusive development methods

evaluation trench

archaeological feature

field drain

furrow

fence line

line of post-medieval enclosure depicted on the First Edition OS map of 1884



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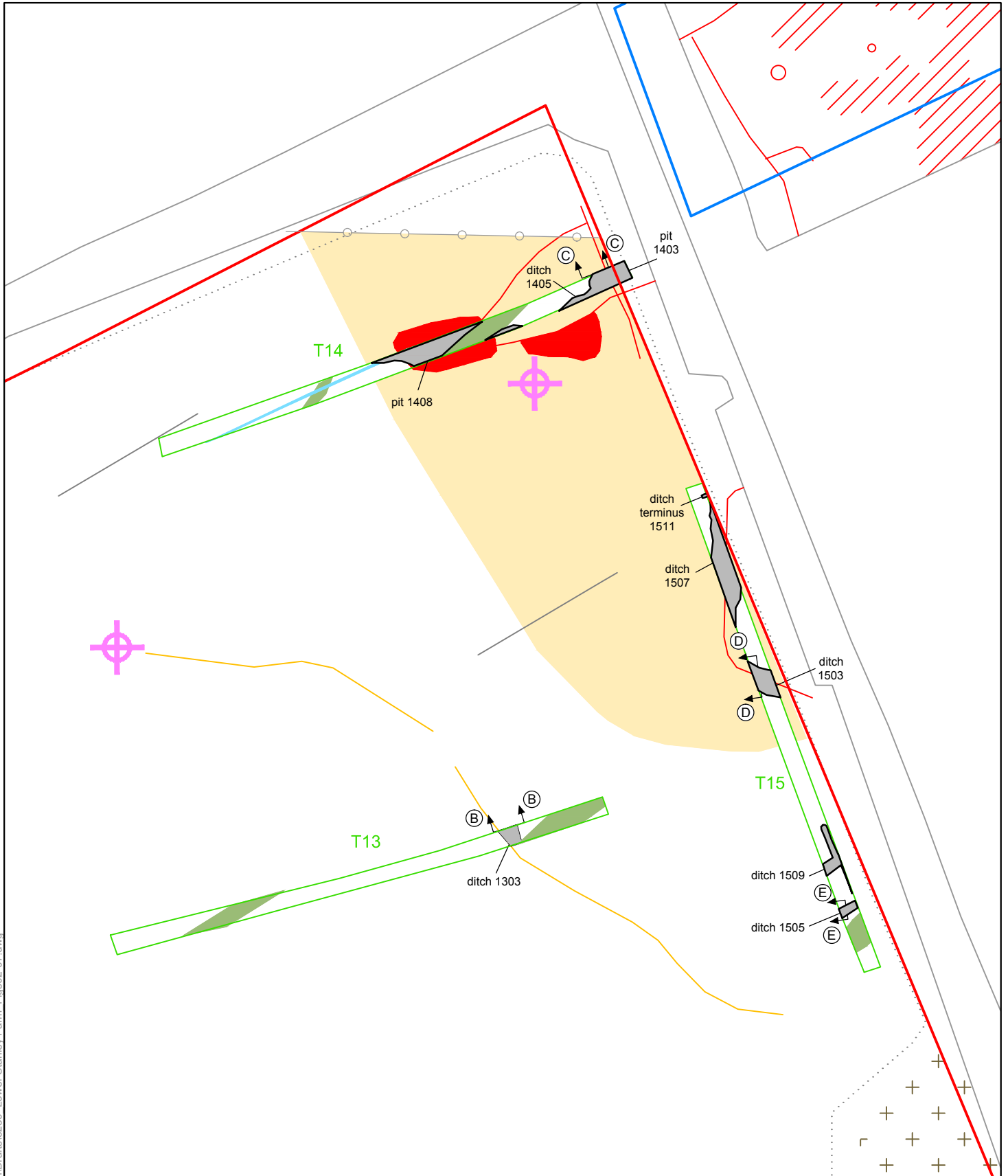
PROJECT TITLE  
 Land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton  
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trenches 11 - 17, showing  
 archaeological features and  
 geophysical survey results**

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FIGURE NO.

**4**



- site boundary
- provisional mitigation area for non-intrusive development methods
- area excluded from development
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- field drain
- furrow
- fence line
- B section location

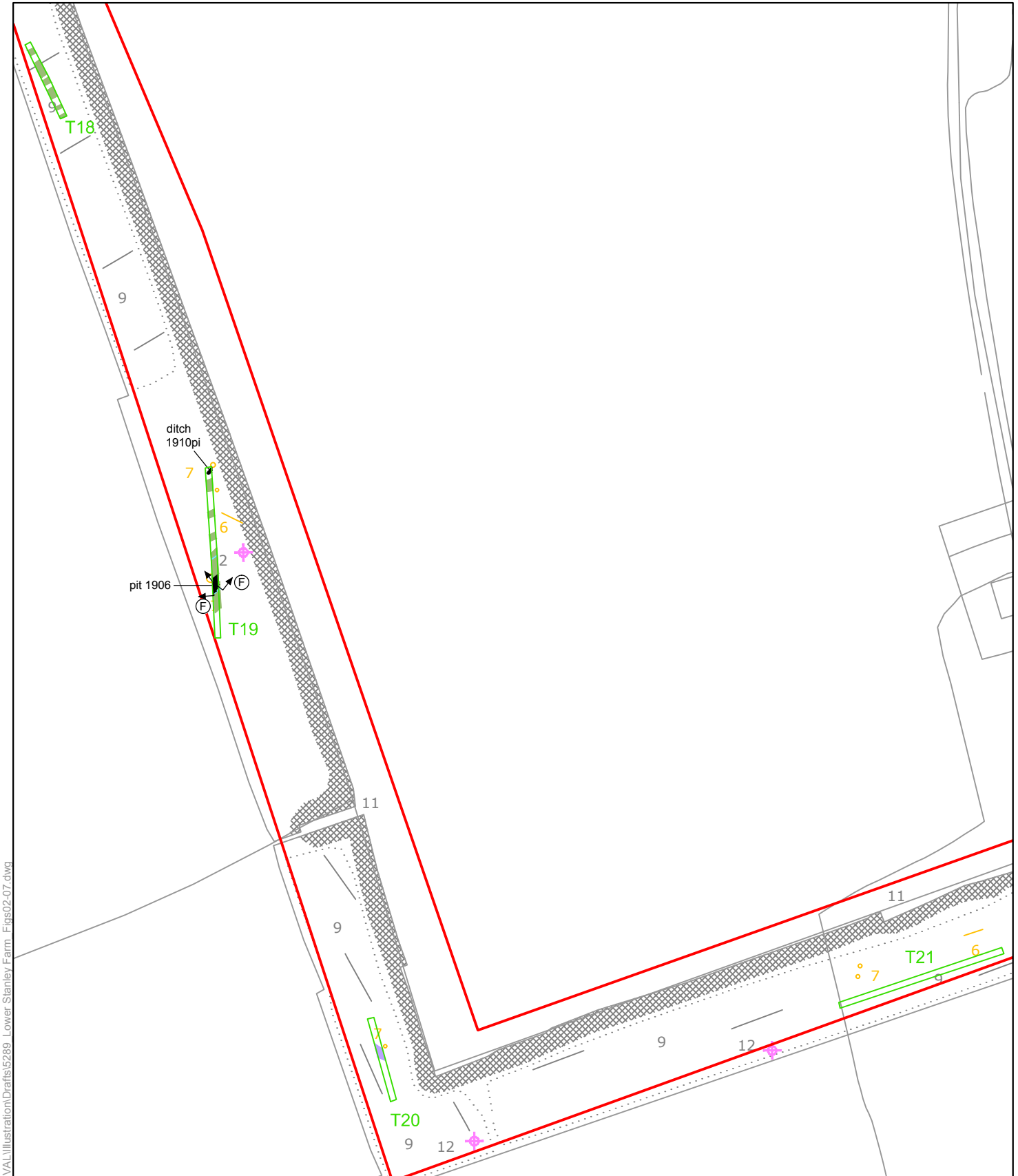


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 Exeter 01392 826185  
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 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Trenches 13, 14 & 15, showing  
 archaeological features and  
 geophysical survey results**

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<b>CHECKED BY</b> JB	<b>DATE</b> 13/05/2015	<b>5</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> DDR	<b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:500	



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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- field drain
- geology
- section location



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[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trenches 18 - 21, showing  
 archaeological features and  
 geophysical survey results

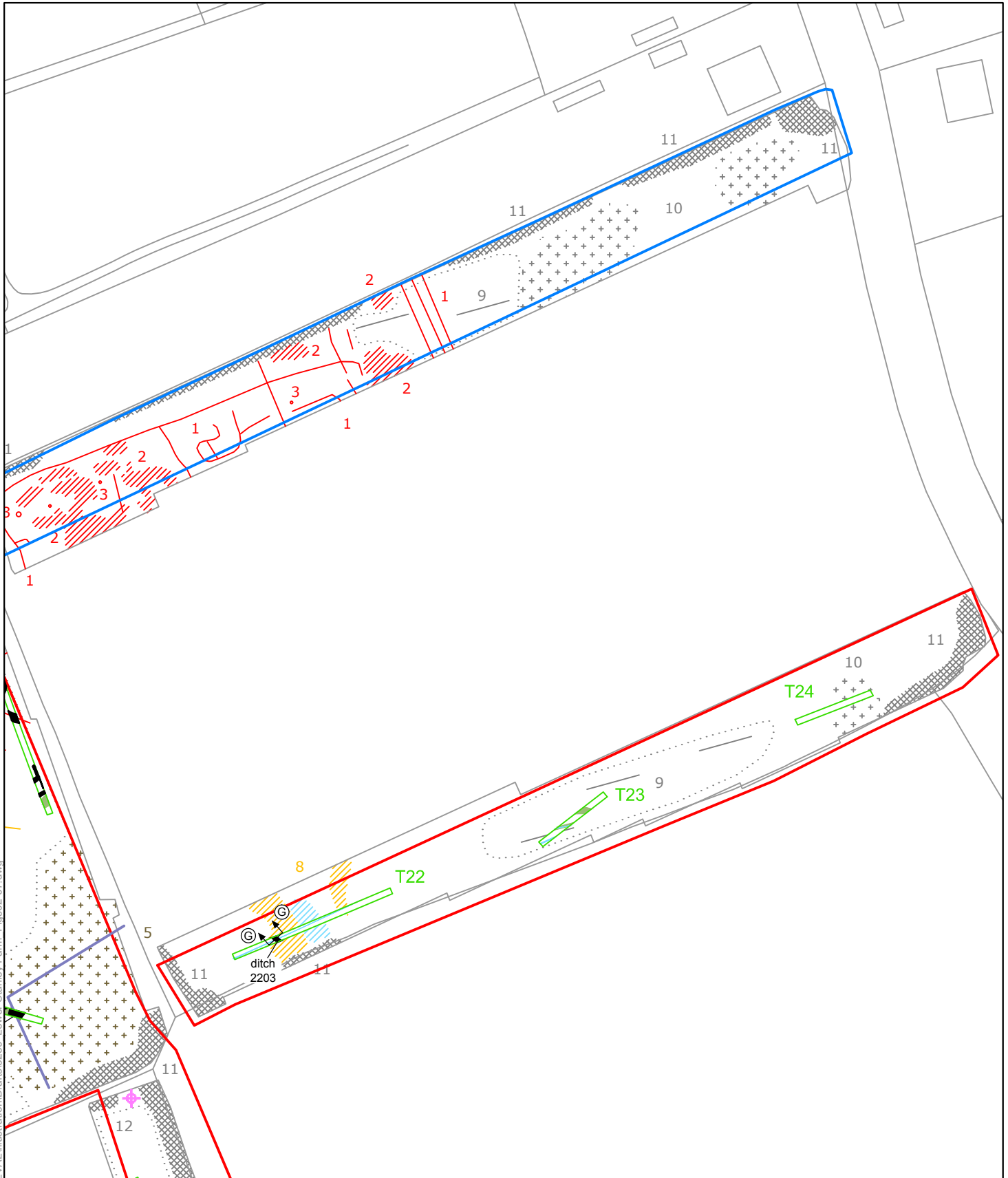
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FIGURE NO.

**6**

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- field drain
- furrow
- Ⓢ
Ⓢ
Ⓢ
 section location



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Trenches 22 - 24, showing  
 archaeological features and  
 geophysical survey results**

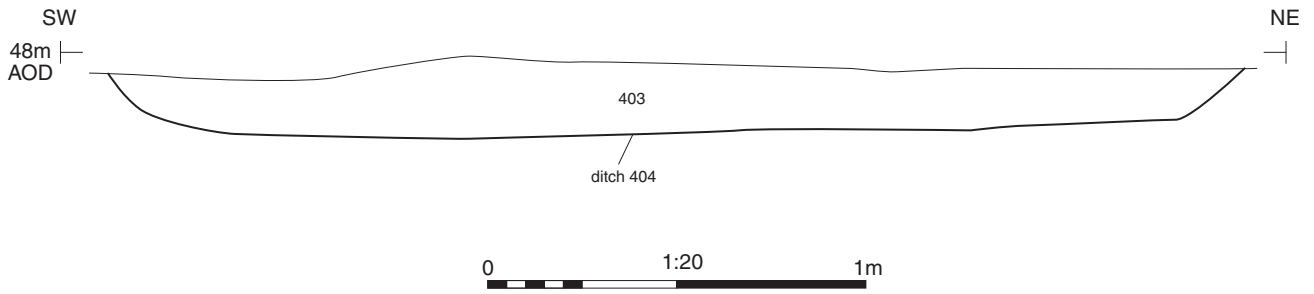
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**FIGURE NO.**  
**7**

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Section AA



Ditch 404 looking north-west (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 4: section and photograph**

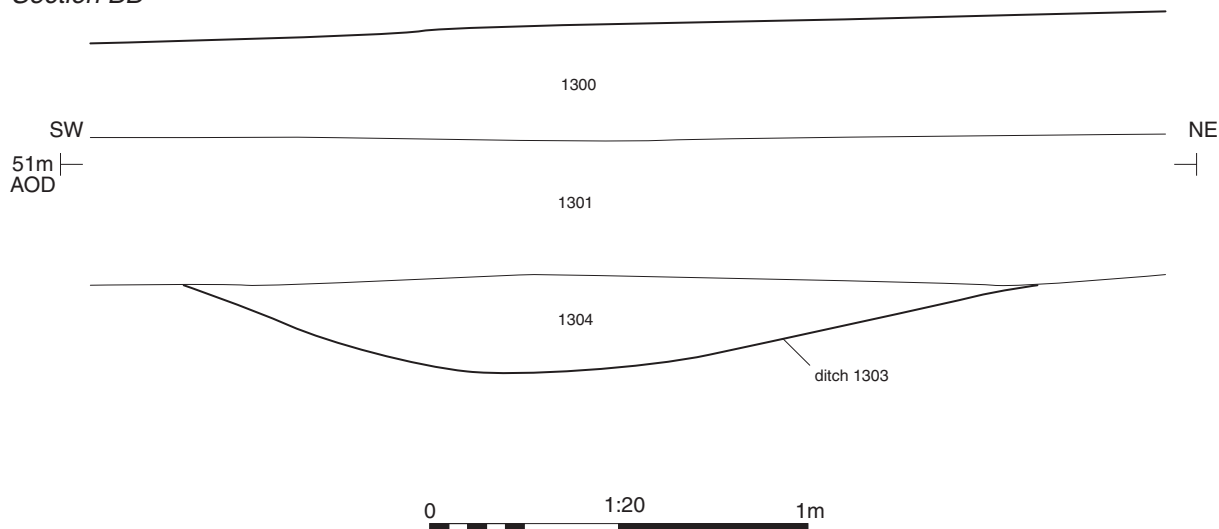
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FIGURE NO.

**8**



Section BB



Ditch 1303 looking north (1m scale)



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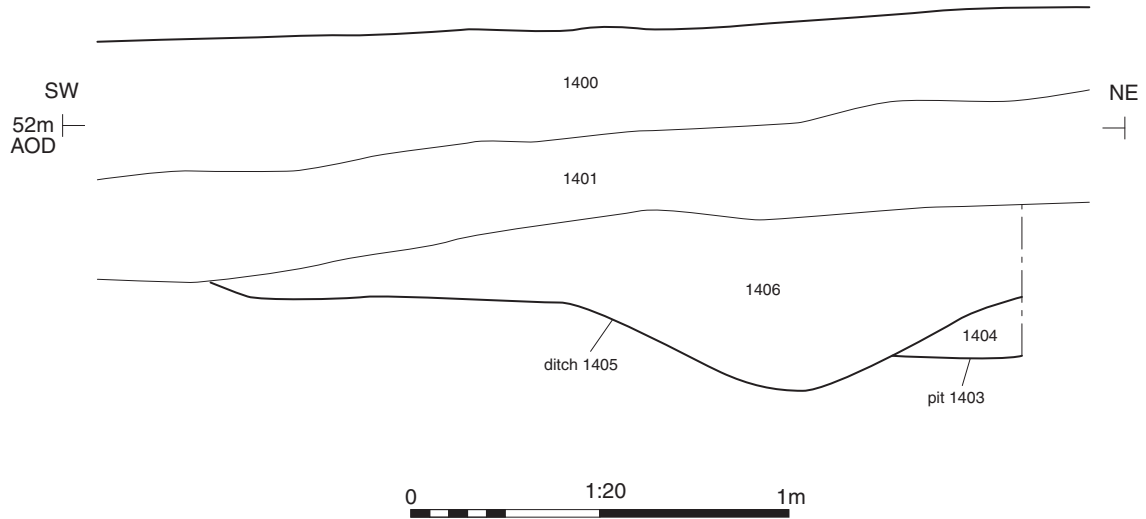
Land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton  
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FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 13: section and photograph**

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Section CC



Ditch 1405 and pit 1403 looking north (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

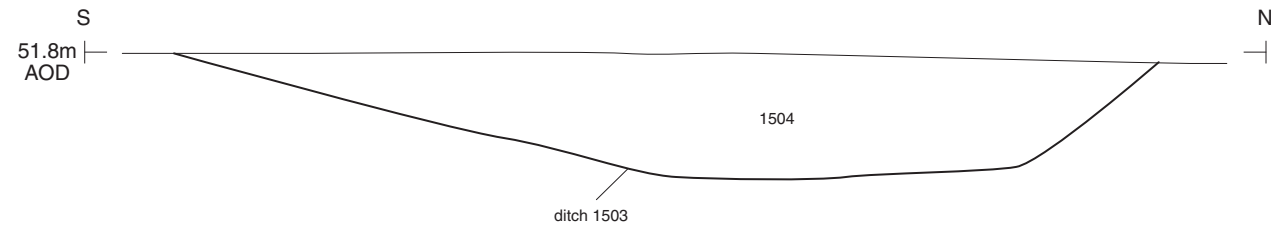
**Trench 14: section and photograph**

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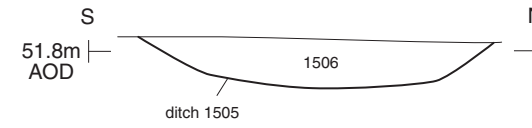
FIGURE NO.

**10**

Section DD



Section EE

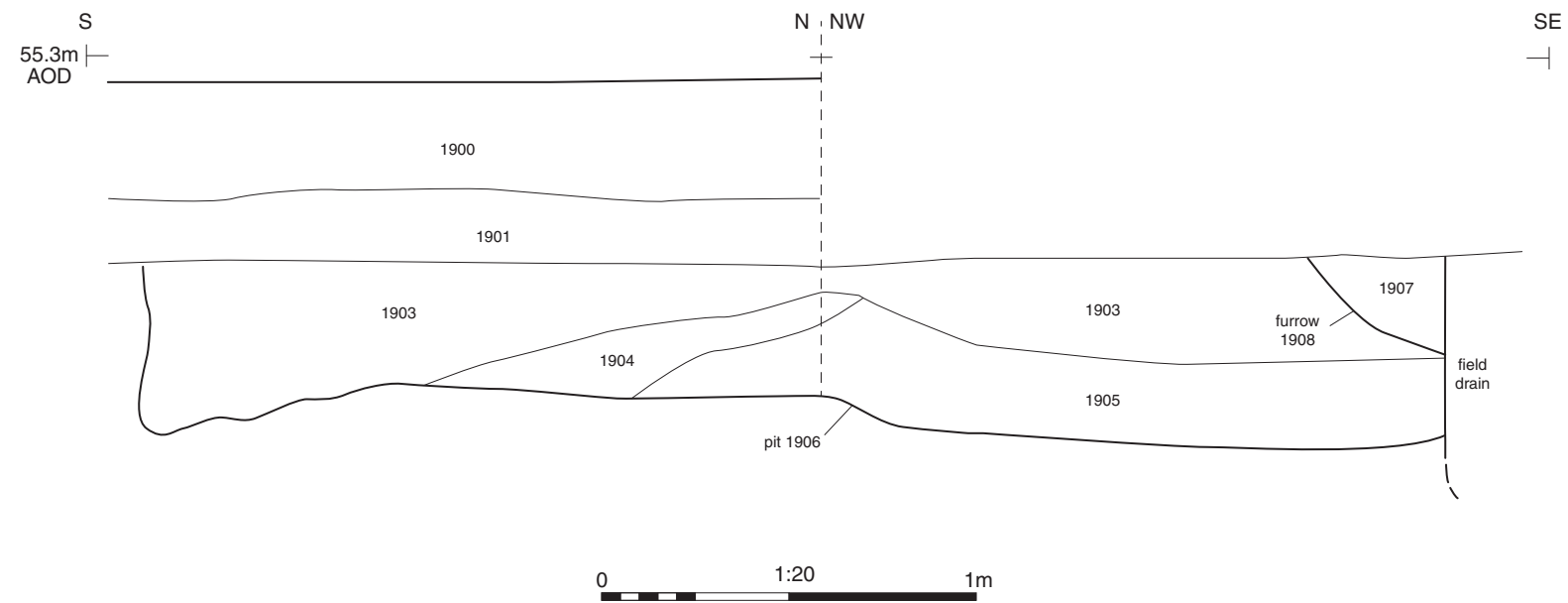


Ditch 1503 looking north-west (1m scale)



Ditch 1505 looking west (1m scale)

Section FF



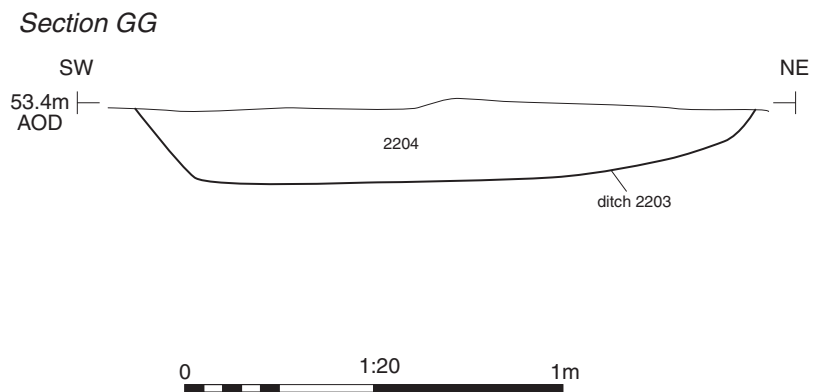
Pit 1906 looking north-east (1m scale)


**Cotswold Archaeology**  
 Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE  
 Land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton  
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 19: section and photograph**

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	5289	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	13/05/2015	12
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*Ditch 2203 looking north-west (1m scale)*



Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**

Land at Lower Stanley Farm, Alderton  
 Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Trench 22: section and photograph**

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	5289	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	14/05/2015	<b>13</b>
APPROVED BY	DDR	SCALE@A4	1:20	

### **Andover Office**

Stanley House  
Walworth Road  
Andover  
Hampshire  
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

### **Cirencester Office**

Building 11  
Kemble Enterprise Park  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire  
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

### **Exeter Office**

Unit 8  
Basepoint Business Centre  
Yeoford Way  
Marsh Barton Trading Estate  
Exeter  
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

### **Milton Keynes Office**

41 Burners Lane South  
Kiln Farm  
Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire  
MK1 3HA

t: 01908 564660