

# Ermin Way Gas Main Replacement Swindon Wiltshire

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
Grontmij

on behalf of  
Wales and West Utilities

CA Project: 5339  
CA Report: 15336

June 2015



# Ermin Way Gas Main Replacement Swindon Wiltshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

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CA Report: 15336



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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:1000 and 1:250).



## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Ermin Way Gas Main Replacement  
**Location:** Swindon, Wiltshire  
**NGR:** SU 2343 8083  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 18-19 March 2015  
**Location of Archive:** Swindon Museum and Art Gallery  
**Site Code:** EWG 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the Gas main replacement Ermin Way, Swindon, Wiltshire.

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



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Grontmij on behalf of Wales and West Utilities at Ermine Way, Swindon, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 2343 8083; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The gas main replacement was carried out as a requirement of the Health and Safety Executive and Ofgem to update and rationalise the gas main network. Given the works had the potential to impact upon buried archaeological remains, Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council) requested that an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundwork activity along the identified gas main route. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2015), and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief (ClfA 2014), and 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 gas main replacement route runs for c.0.5km through a residential area to the southeast of Swindon.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Grey Chalk Subgroup - Chalk of the Cretaceous period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2015).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 No specific archaeological desk based assessment has been completed prior to the planned observations. However, the route of the gas main replacement is known to transect an area of known archaeological interest.
- 1.7 A range of likely prehistoric to Roman assets are known in the area surrounding the gas main replacement route. These include a Bronze Age round barrow,

approximately 400m to the north (National Monuments Record (NMR) reference SU 2381/5-6) as well as dispersed pottery sherds of this date, including Romano-British pottery recovered at Wanborough Plain c.200m to the northwest. There is also interest in the area given the alignment of Ermin Way (following Ermin Street).

- 1.8 The surrounding area has been subject to aerial photography, and this has highlighted the presence of a number of crop marks of potential archaeological interest, suggesting the presence of possible field boundaries and quarrying activity of undetermined 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 excavation of trenching (Fig. 2).
- 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 and will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery. 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 (FIG 2)

- 5.1 The natural substrate consisting of clay/chalk was revealed in all areas of observation at a typical depth of 1m below present ground level. This was overlain by a series of layers of redeposited natural, subsoil and made ground, which was in turn sealed by topsoil.
- 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. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed during previous development.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alex Thomson. The report was written by Luke Brannlund. The illustrations were prepared by Jonathan Bennett. The archive has been compiled by and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

## 8. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 17 June 2015



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

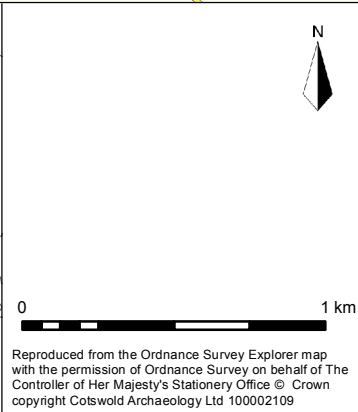
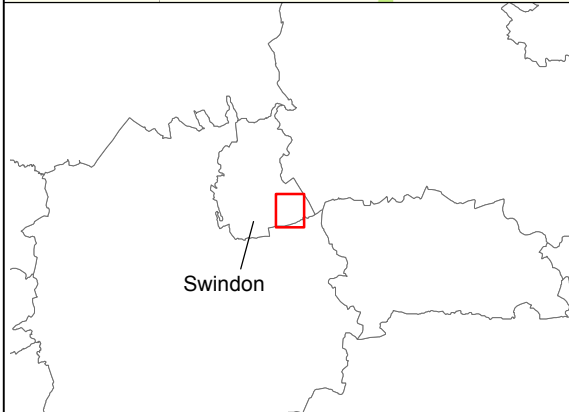
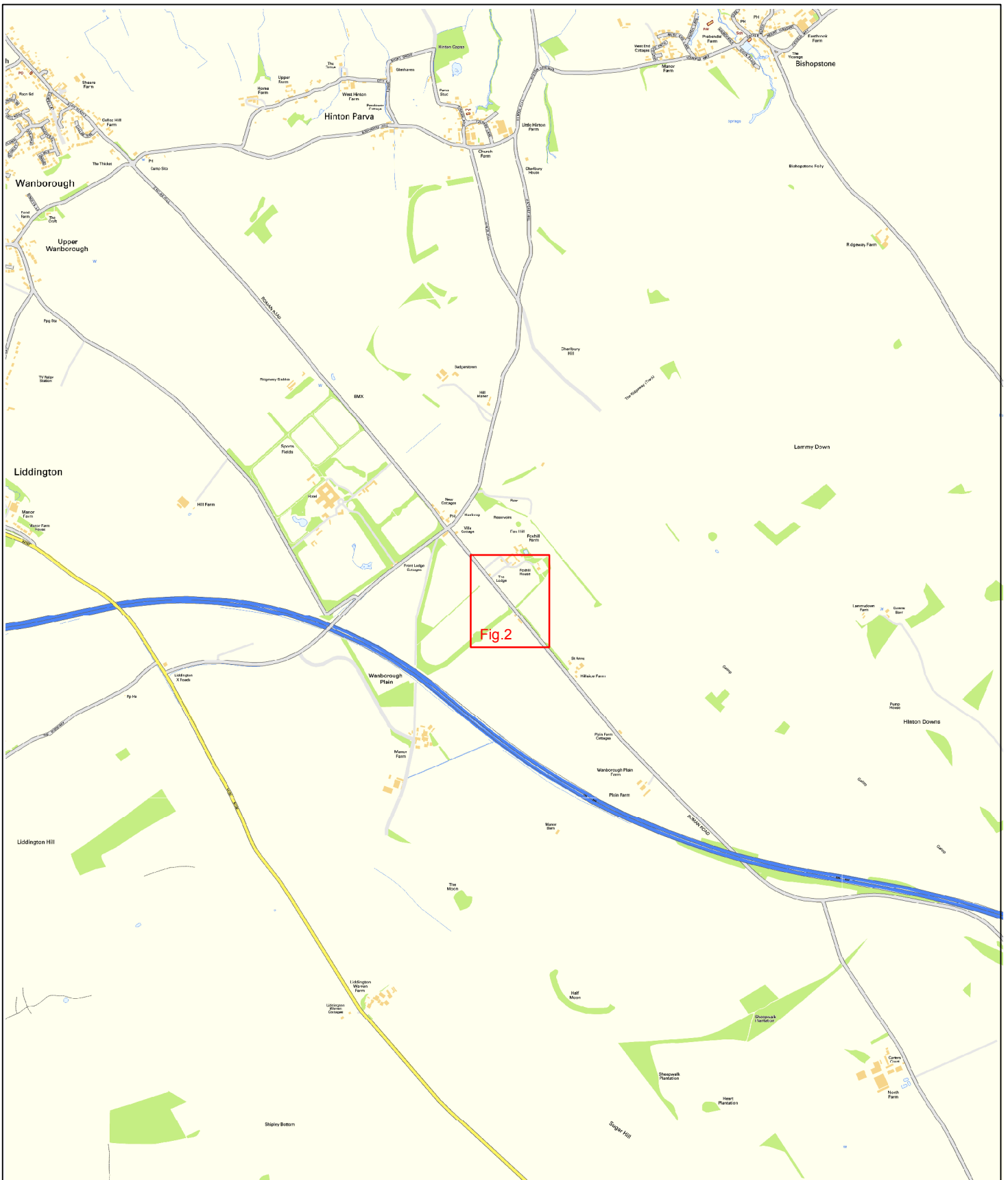
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay silt		0.35
1	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown-grey clay silt		0.3
1	1002	Layer		Natural	White-grey clay chalk		n/a
1	1003	Cut		Modern service	Cut of modern service trench	1	1.6
1	1004	Fill	1003	Fill of Service	Brown-grey chalk silt and clay	1	1.6
2	2000	Layer		Road	Tarmac		0.1
2	2001	Layer		Road bedding	Grey gravel/type.1		0.15
2	2003	Layer		Made ground	Light brown gravel		0.1
2	2004	Layer		Made ground	Chalk rubble in chalk clay		0.1
2	2005	Layer		Made ground	White-brown chalk gravel		0.15
2	2006	Layer		Made ground	Dark brown clay silt		0.05
2	2007	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown-grey clay silt		0.3
2	2008	Layer		Natural	White-grey clay chalk		n/a
2	2009	Cut		Modern service	Cut of modern service trench	0.75	1.3
2	2010	Fill	2009	Fill of Service	Brown-grey chalk silt and clay	0.75	1.3
3	3000	Layer		Road	Tarmac		0.15
3	3001	Layer		Road bedding	Grey gravel/type 1		0.1
3	3002	Layer		Made ground	Light brown gravel		0.1
3	3003	Layer		Made ground	Chalk rubble in chalk clay		0.1
3	3004	Layer		Made ground	White-brown chalk gravel		0.15
3	3005	Layer		Made ground	Dark brown clay silt		0.05
3	3006	Layer		Made ground	Chalk rubble in chalk clay		0.1
3	3007	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown-grey clay silt		0.35
3	3008	Layer		Natural	White-grey clay chalk		n/a
3	3009	Cut		Modern service	Cut of modern service trench	0.7	1.3
3	3010	Fill	3009	Fill of Service	Brown-grey chalk silt and clay	0.7	1.3
4	4000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay silt		0.3
4	4001	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown-grey clay silt		0.3
4	4002	Layer		Natural	White-grey clay chalk		0.6
4	4003	Cut		Modern service	Cut of modern service trench	0.75	1
4	4004	Fill	4003	Fill of Service	Brown-grey chalk silt and clay	0.75	1
5	5000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay silt		0.2
5	5001	Layer		Made ground	Clay gravel		0.05
5	5002	Layer		Concrete	Concrete		0.5
5	5003	Cut		Modern service	Cut of modern service trench	1	2.4
5	5004	Fill	5003	Fill of Service	Brown-grey chalk silt and clay	1	2.4
5	5005	Layer		Natural	White-grey clay chalk		n/a
6	6000	Layer		Road	Tarmac		0.15
6	6001	Layer		Road bedding	Grey gravel/type 1		0.1
6	6002	Layer		Made ground	Light brown gravel		0.1
6	6003	Layer		Made ground	Chalk rubble in chalk clay		0.1
6	6004	Layer		Made ground	White-brown chalk gravel		0.15
6	6005	Layer		Made ground	Dark brown clay silt		0.05
6	6006	Layer		Made ground	Chalk rubble in chalk clay		0.1
6	6007	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown-grey clay silt		0.35



6	6008	Layer		Natural	White-grey clay chalk		0.3
6	6009	Cut		Modern service	Cut of modern service trench	0.7	1.3
6	6010	Fill	6009	Fill of Service	Brown-grey chalk silt and clay	0.7	1.3
6	6011	Cut		Modern service	Cut of modern service trench	0.5	1
6	6012	Fill	6012	Fill of Service	Brown-grey chalk silt and clay	0.5	1

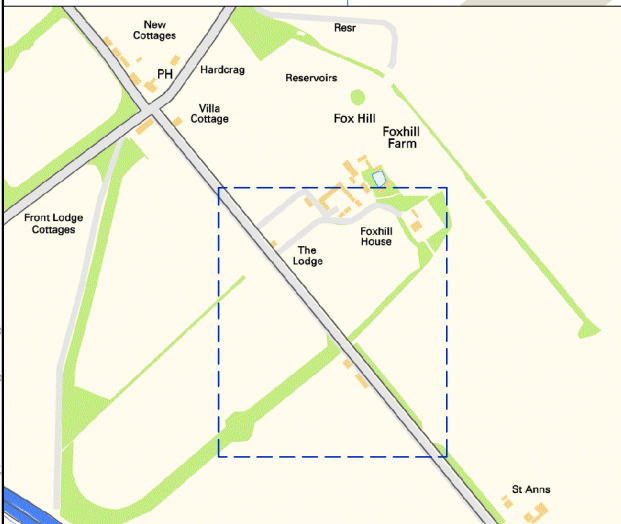
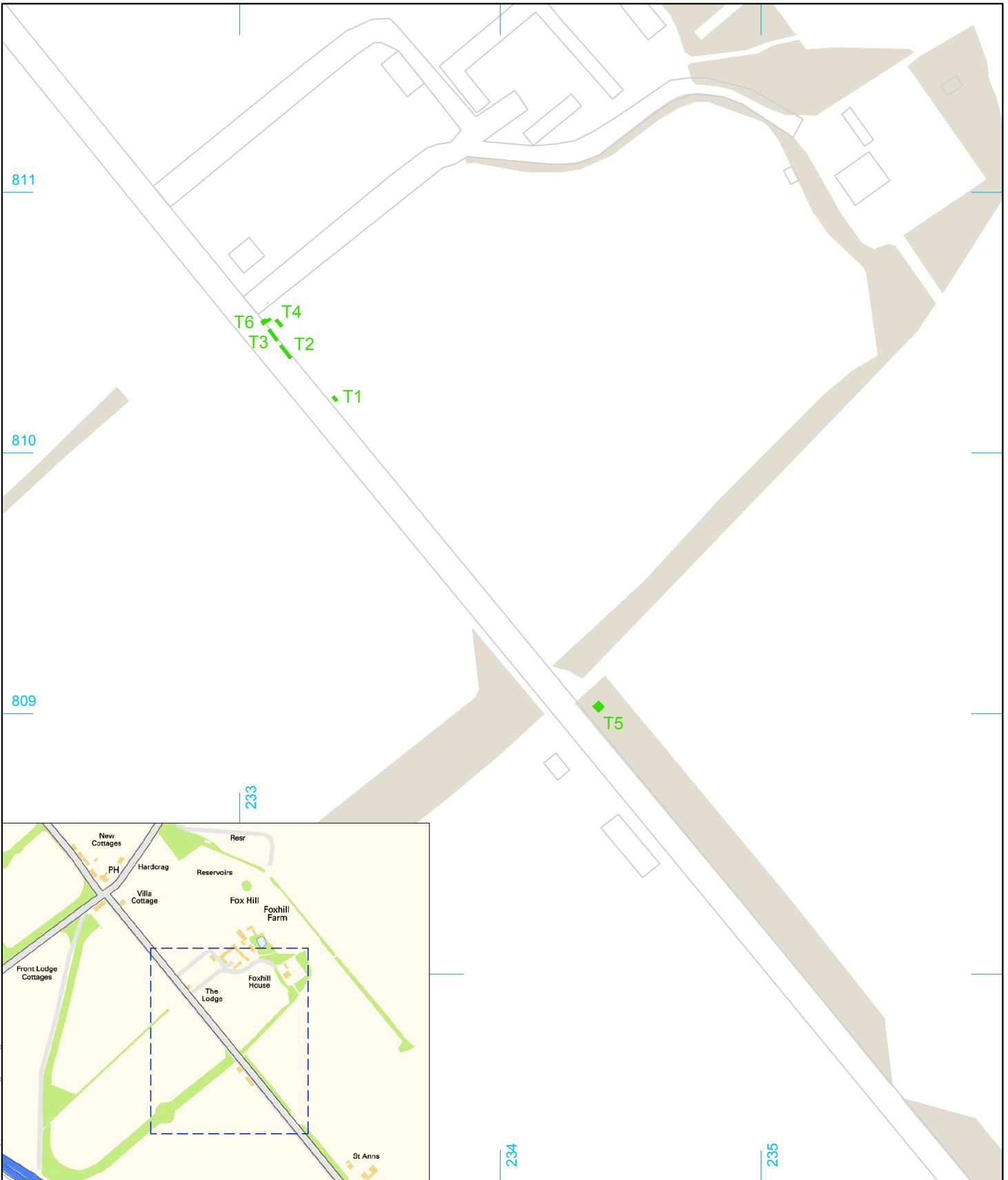
**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**


<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Ermin Way, Gas Main Replacement	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the Gas main replacement Ermin Way, Swindon, Wiltshire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	18-19 March 2015	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work		
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Ermin Way, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.5km	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 2343 8083	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Alex Thomson	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	none	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	none	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Context sheets, Photo registers
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire: Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 15336</p>		

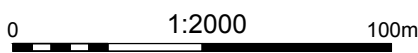
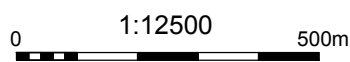


	<b>Andover</b> 01264 347630 <b>Cirencester</b> 01285 771022 <b>Exeter</b> 01392 826185 <b>Milton Keynes</b> 01908 564660 <b>w</b> www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk <b>e</b> enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk								
	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> Ermin Way, Swindon								
	<b>FIGURE TITLE</b> Site location plan								
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>DRAWN BY</b> JB</td> <td><b>PROJECT NO.</b> 5339</td> <td><b>FIGURE NO.</b> 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>CHECKED BY</b> LVB</td> <td><b>DATE</b> 02-07-2015</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>APPROVED BY</b> IB</td> <td><b>SCALE @ A4</b> 1:25,000</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<b>DRAWN BY</b> JB	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 5339	<b>FIGURE NO.</b> 1	<b>CHECKED BY</b> LVB	<b>DATE</b> 02-07-2015		<b>APPROVED BY</b> IB	<b>SCALE @ A4</b> 1:25,000
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<b>CHECKED BY</b> LVB	<b>DATE</b> 02-07-2015								
<b>APPROVED BY</b> IB	<b>SCALE @ A4</b> 1:25,000								

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 area of observed groundworks



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Ermin Way, Swindon**

FIGURE TITLE  
**The site, showing location of groundworks**

DRAWN BY	JB	PROJECT NO.	5339	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LVB	DATE	02-07-2015	
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A3	1:2000 (inset 1:12.5k)	<b>2</b>

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