

Land at The Knapp Minchinhampton Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Cala Homes Midlands Ltd

CA Project: 5443
CA Report: 15352

July 2015



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	The Knapp
Location:	Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SO 87606 01301
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	24 -26 June 2015
Planning Reference:	Stroud District Council S.15/0656/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with The Museum in the Park, Stroud
Site Code:	TKM 15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2015 of land at The Knapp, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. A total of eight trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Cala Homes Midlands Ltd of land at The Knapp, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 87606 01301; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application made to Stroud District Council (SDC; planning ref: S.15/0656/FUL) for residential housing and associated infrastructure.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), 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).

The site

- 1.3 The site is approximately 2ha in extent, and comprises an irregularly shaped parcel of open land in use as pasture with buildings at the northern end, bounded to the west by The Knapp, to the northwest by Butt Street, to the north and south by existing dwellings and to the southeast by The Tynnings. The site lies at approximately 195m AOD, and is broadly flat.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology is mapped as Athelstan Oolite Formation – Limestone of the Jurassic period. No superficial deposits were noted (BGS 2015). The natural substrate encountered on site varied between limestone brash and loose, large sub-angular limestone in a clay matrix.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been subject to geophysical survey as part of this programme of archaeological work (AS 2015). The results of this survey and other pertinent archaeological evidence is summarised below.

- 2.2 The development area is located approximately 70m northeast of Scheduled Monument 13806 (multi-period site on Minchinhampton Common). The Scheduled Monument comprises the remains of significant archaeological features from several periods, the most recognisable of these are earthworks, 'The Bulwarks', that are considered to be defensive and/or boundary features. While some of the earthworks had been dated to the late Iron Age, recent re-appraisal has suggested that they may be of medieval rather than prehistoric construction and (along with Amberley Camp, The Pinfarthings and similar enclosures on Rodborough Common) divided the woodland of the commons from adjoining areas of land use (Parry 1996).
- 2.3 Directly to the east, an archaeological evaluation identified evidence for medieval activity in the form of truncated ditches and pits (CA 2013).
- 2.4 The geophysical survey of the site identified a number of geophysical anomalies of potential archaeological interest, suggestive of the presence of a series of ditches and pits (AS 2015).

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* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable SDC 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 8 trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches varied in length between 18m and 45m in length, all were 1.8m in width. Trench 5 was reduced in length and Trench 6 relocated to avoid overhead power cables with the approval of Charles Parry. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.

- 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. No artefacts were recovered.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and the site archive will be deposited with The Museum in the Park, Stroud. 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 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The natural substrate was revealed at a typical depth of 0.4m below present ground level. In Trenches 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 it was overlain by subsoil, which was in turn sealed by topsoil; Trenches 1, 3 and 4 did not contain a distinct subsoil. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified. The geophysical anomalies highlighted as being of potential archaeological origin (AS 2015) were determined in all cases to be of geological origin.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site (see archaeological background above), the evaluation identified no archaeological remains within the site. The geophysical anomalies tested during trenching were all shown to represent geological features only. The presence of subsoil across the bulk of the site,

alongside the stable surface of the natural substrate, suggests limited recent truncation.

- 6.2 Ordnance Survey maps from 1884 onwards show the site as open land, and observations made during fieldwork suggest no significant truncation has occurred. As such, given the results of the geophysical survey and trial trenching, it may be concluded that archaeological features and deposits associated with known medieval activity to the east do not extend as far as the site, or were sufficiently ephemeral to have been removed by the limited known historic farming.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish, assisted by Jon Pick and Tom Slater. The report was written by Jon Pick. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

8. REFERENCES

Archaeological Surveys (AS) *The Knapp, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire – Magnetometer Survey Report*, Report Ref. 614

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 26 June 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Land off Cirencester Road, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Report No. **13635**

Parry, C. 1996 'An earthwork on Rodborough Common, Gloucestershire: A Review of the evidence', *Transactions Of The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeology Society* **114** 143-157

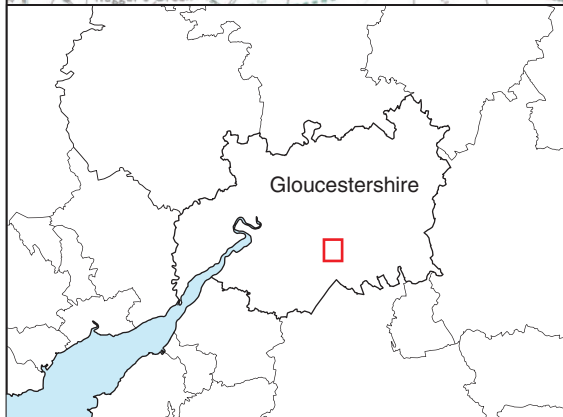


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>45	>1.7	0.3
1	101	Layer		natural substrate	limestone brash in a matrix of mid red brown sandy silt with mid red brown sandy clay patches	>45	>1.7	
2	200	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>25	>1.7	0.2
2	201	Layer		subsoil	mid red brown sandy silt	>25	>1.7	0.19
2	202	Layer		natural substrate	limestone brash in a matrix of mid red brown sandy silt	>25	>1.7	
3	300	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>25	>1.7	0.3
3	301	Layer		natural substrate	limestone brash in a matrix of mid red brown sandy silt	>25	>1.7	
4	400	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>45	>1.7	0.29
4	401	Layer		natural substrate	limestone brash in a matrix of mid red brown sandy silt with mid red brown sandy clay patches	>45	>1.7	
5	500	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>18	>1.7	0.21
5	501	Layer		subsoil	mid red brown sandy silt	>18	>1.7	0.19
5	502	Layer		natural substrate	limestone brash in a matrix of mid red brown sandy silt with mid red brown sandy clay patches	>18	>1.7	
6	600	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>25	>1.7	0.21
6	601	Layer		subsoil	mid red brown sandy silt	>25	>1.7	0.10
6	602	Layer		natural substrate	limestone brash in a matrix of mid red brown sandy silt	>25	>1.7	
7	700	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>25	>1.7	0.18
7	701	Layer		subsoil	mid red brown sandy silt	>25	>1.7	0.23
7	702	Layer		natural substrate	limestone brash in a matrix of mid red brown sandy silt with mid red brown sandy clay patches	>25	>1.7	
8	800	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>25	>1.7	0.24
8	801	Layer		subsoil	mid red brown sandy silt	>25	>1.7	0.08
8	802	Layer		natural substrate	limestone brash in a matrix of mid red brown sandy silt with mid red brown sandy clay patches	>25	>1.7	
8	803	Cut		geological feature	irregular natural hollow	>1.28	0.78	0.26
8	804	Fill	803	natural fill of geological feature	mid red brown sandy clay	>1.28	0.78	0.26

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	The Knapp, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2015 of land at The Knapp, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. A total of eight trenches were excavated. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the evaluation.	
Project dates	24 – 26 June 2015	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Archaeological Surveys (2015) <i>The Knapp, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire: Magnetometer Survey Report ref 614</i>	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	The Knapp, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire	
Study area		
Site co-ordinates	SO 87606 01301	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	The Museum in the Park, Stroud	Trench Recording forms, Context Sheets
Digital		GPS data, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>The Knapp, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 13532		



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PROJECT TITLE

The Knapp, Minchinhampton
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FIGURE TITLE

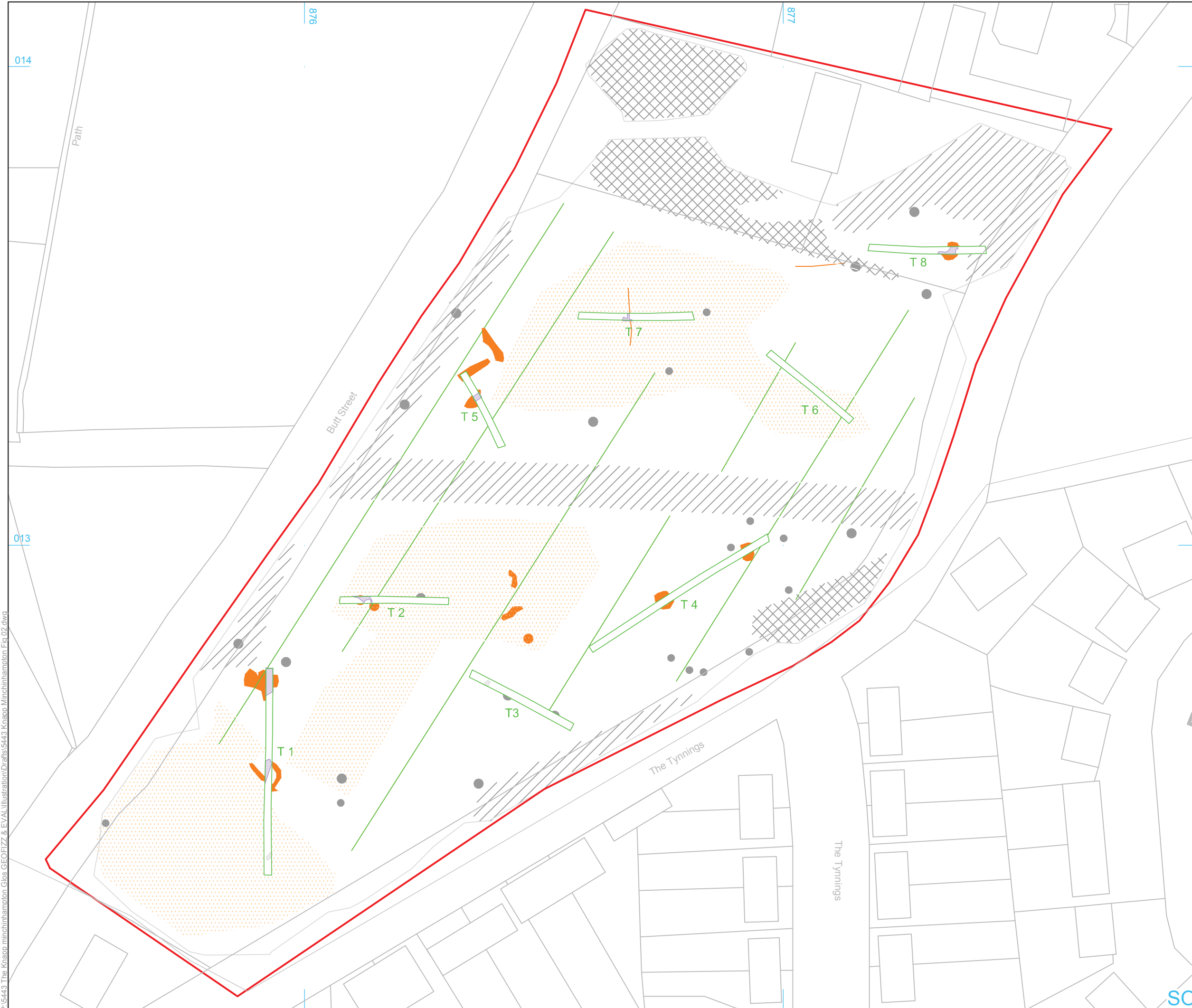
Site location plan

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DRAWN BY AO PROJECT NO. 5443
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FIGURE NO.

1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- geological feature
- modern feature

**Geophysics Key
(Archaeological Surveys Ltd)**

- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Linear anomaly - of agricultural origin
- Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature
- Zone of discrete positive responses - of possible natural origin
- Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremanent/ferrous material
- Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



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PROJECT TITLE
 The Knapp, Minchinhampton
 Gloucestershire

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

DRAWN BY AO	PROJECT NO. 5443	FIGURE NO.	
CHECKED BY LM	DATE 13/07/2015		
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