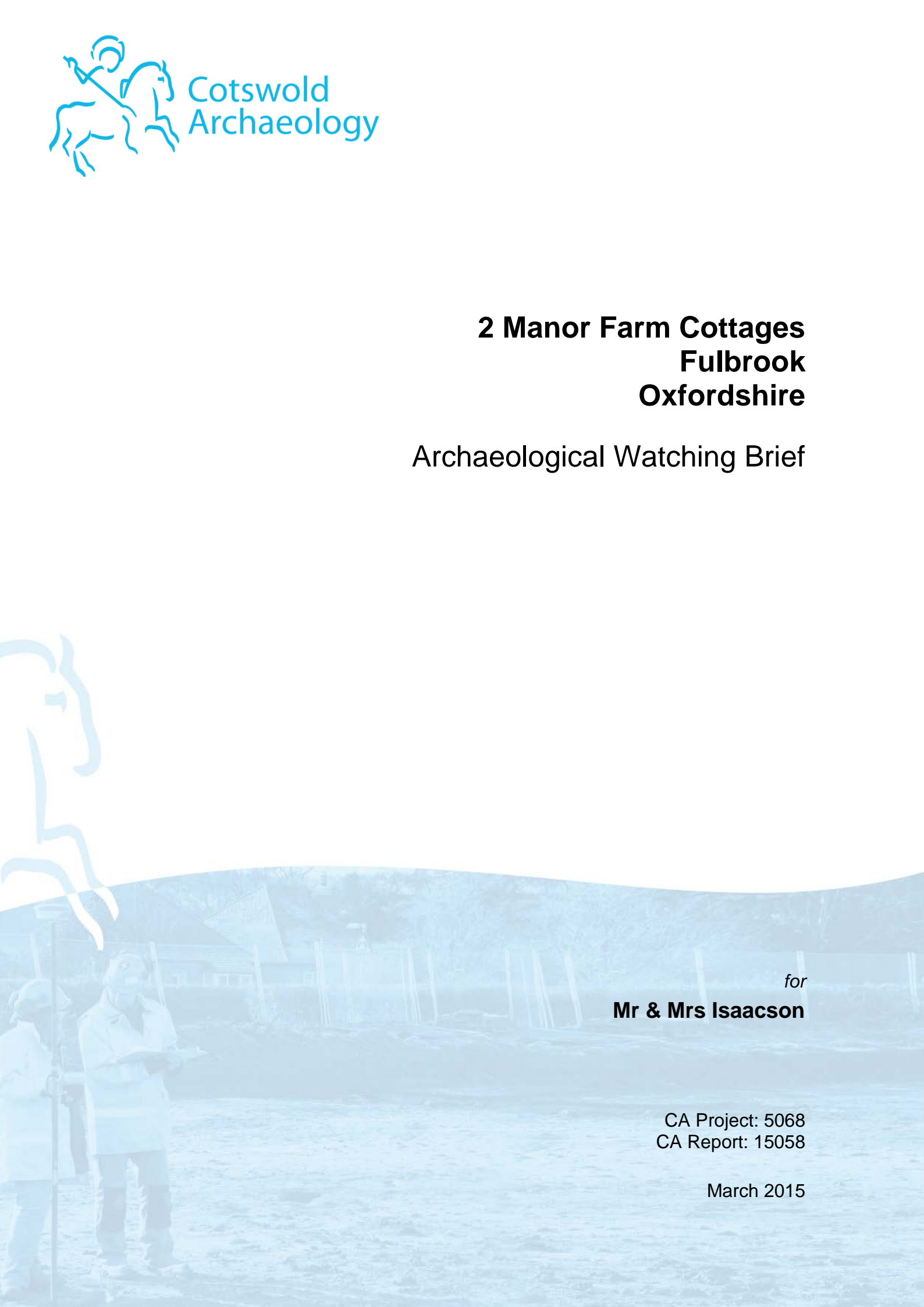


**2 Manor Farm Cottages
Fulbrook
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Mr & Mrs Isaacson


CA Project: 5068
CA Report: 15058

March 2015

2 Manor Farm Cottages
Fulbrook
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5068
CA Report: 15058

prepared by	Greg Crees, Project Supervisor
date	3 March 2015
checked by	Cliff Bateman, Principal Project Manager
date	13 March 2015
approved by	Laurent Coleman, Principal Project Manager
signed	
date	16 March 2015
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	2 Manor Farm Cottages
Location:	Fulbrook, Oxfordshire
NGR:	SP 25941 13326
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	26th to 27th January 2015
Planning Reference:	14/1099/P/FP; condition 4
Location of Archive:	Oxfordshire Museums Service
Site Code:	MFUP 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundwork associated the erection of a single storey rear extension to the property at 2 Manor Farm Cottages, Fulbrook.

Four archaeological features interpreted as pits or possible pits, and two postholes, were identified within the eastern portion of the foundation trench. A single find from one of the probable pits could indicate a medieval or later date. The other identified features were post-medieval to modern in date or remained undated.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr and Mrs Isaacson at 2 Manor Farm Cottages, Fulbrook, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR: SP 25944 13331; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) for the erection of a single storey rear extension to the property (WODC planning ref: 14/1099/P/FP, condition 4).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a brief (OCC 2014) prepared by Joanne Robinson, Assistant Archaeological Officer, Oxfordshire County Council, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) that was approved by Joanne Robinson. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area comprises land to the rear of a domestic dwelling. It is bound to the south, east and west by further residential properties and to the north by agricultural fields (Fig. 1). The site lies at approximately 125m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The site is approximately 40m² in extent and forms a back yard area for the existing property.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as being on, or close to, the of junction of Chipping Norton Limestone Formation and Clypeus Grit Member – Limestone (BGS 2014). No superficial deposits are recorded (ibid.). The geology encountered on site was limestone brash and clay.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The proposed development area lies to the south of a possible Roman villa and associated field system that have previously been identified as cropmarks, although the full extent of these features currently remains undetermined. Roman, as well as

early medieval, pottery has previously been recovered immediately to the south of the development area (OCC 2014).

- 1.7 Fulbrook Manor House, which lies approximately 50m to the west, is a mid 17th-century, Grade II listed, building.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 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.

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundwork comprising the excavation of foundation trenches (Fig. 2).
- 1.10 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.11 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service, 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 The natural limestone brash, 105, was revealed throughout the foundation trench at an average depth of 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain directly by modern made ground deposits of sand silt and clay, 103, which was in turn overlain by modern garden soil/topsoil 101, up to 0.5m in thickness, and gravel 102 forming the current car parking surface which was up to 0.1m thick. No subsoil was identified and it was presumably removed during previous landscaping at the site.
- 2.2 A number of archaeological features were identified within the eastern half of the foundation trench in the locations shown on Fig. 2. All of the features cut natural substrate 105 and were sealed by modern made ground 103, topsoil 101 or gravel deposits 102. Two of the features were cut by modern service trench 122.
- 2.3 Probable pit 110 was identified within the eastern foundation trench (Fig. 3; section AA). It had shallow surviving concave sides to a rounded base and was heavily truncated by modern service trench 122 (Fig. 3). Part of a broken Late medieval token or jetton was recovered from its single clayey silt fill 109 (Fig. 5).
- 2.4 Probable pit 112, also identified in the eastern footing trench, had steep sides and was not excavated to base (Fig. 3, section AA). It contained two undated fills; a sandy clay silt 120, overlain by clayey silt deposit 111 which contained rare charcoal flecks and small limestone inclusions.
- 2.5 Pit 108 was identified within the northern trench of the foundation footing. It had steep sides and was not excavated to base; its southern extent was cut by modern service trench 122 (Fig. 4; section BB). It had a single fill, 107, composed of sandy silt with a high frequency sub-angular limestone and occasional fragments of post-medieval pottery.
- 2.6 Pit 119 was oval shaped with steep sides and was not excavated to base. It contained a single clay silt fill, 118, that contained charcoal, occasional post medieval pottery, and post medieval or modern brick inclusions.
- 2.7 Two postholes were identified within the central foundation footing. Posthole 116 was oval shaped with shallow sides to a flat base and contained fill 115; a single

sandy silt deposit from which post medieval pottery was recovered. Posthole 114 was circular in plan, with steep sides but was not excavated to its base. It contained silt clay construction fill 113 and the remains of an *in situ* post pipe 117, the latter representing the rotted remains of a wooden post. ,

The finds

- 2.8 Finds recovered during the watching brief include pottery, clay tobacco pipe and a metal object.

Pottery: Post-medieval/modern

- 2.9 A total of four bodysherds of glazed earthenware was recorded from fill 107 within pit 108 and from fill 115 of posthole 116. This type of pottery is dateable to the mid 16th to 18th centuries. A bodysherd of Pearlware, which was manufactured from the late 18th to mid 19th centuries, was recovered from posthole fill 115.

Clay tobacco pipe

- 2.10 Made ground layer 103 produced a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem of late 16th to late 19th century date.

Metal object (Registered artefact 1)

- 2.11 A copper alloy jetton (reckoning counter) was recovered from fill 109 within pit 110. The obverse features the “Shield of France” bearing three fleur de lys. On the reverse is a triple-stranded cross fleuretty (a cross with a fleur de lys at each of the four terminals) within a quatrefoil. This type is of probable mid 14th century date.

3. DISCUSSION

Medieval to Post-Medieval/Modern

- 3.1 Four features interpreted as pits or possible pits, and two post holes, were identified within the eastern portion of the foundation trenching. A single find, a Late medieval token/jetton, recovered from the lower surviving portion of probable pit 108, could indicate a medieval date for this feature. Previous excavations to the south of the site revealed a large quantity of early medieval pottery sherds, suggesting medieval activity survives in the immediate vicinity.

- 3.2 Except for one undated possible pit and an obviously later, most probably modern, posthole, the other features identified all produced artefacts of post medieval or modern date. It is therefore possible that pit 108 is actually of post medieval or later origin, and that the token/jetton may be a residual find.
- 3.3 As well as producing medieval pottery, previous excavations to the south of the site also produced Roman pottery sherds, with cropmarks identified to the north of the site are believed to be extant remains of a probable Roman villa. However no finds of Roman date were recovered during the current works.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Greg Crees. The report was written by Greg Crees. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska, with the finds report compiled by Jacky Sommerville. The archive has been compiled by Greg Crees, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
Online resource accessed 22 September 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *2 Manor Farm Cottages, Fulbrook, Oxfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

OCC (Oxfordshire County Council) 2014 *2 Manor Farm Cottage, Fulbrook: Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

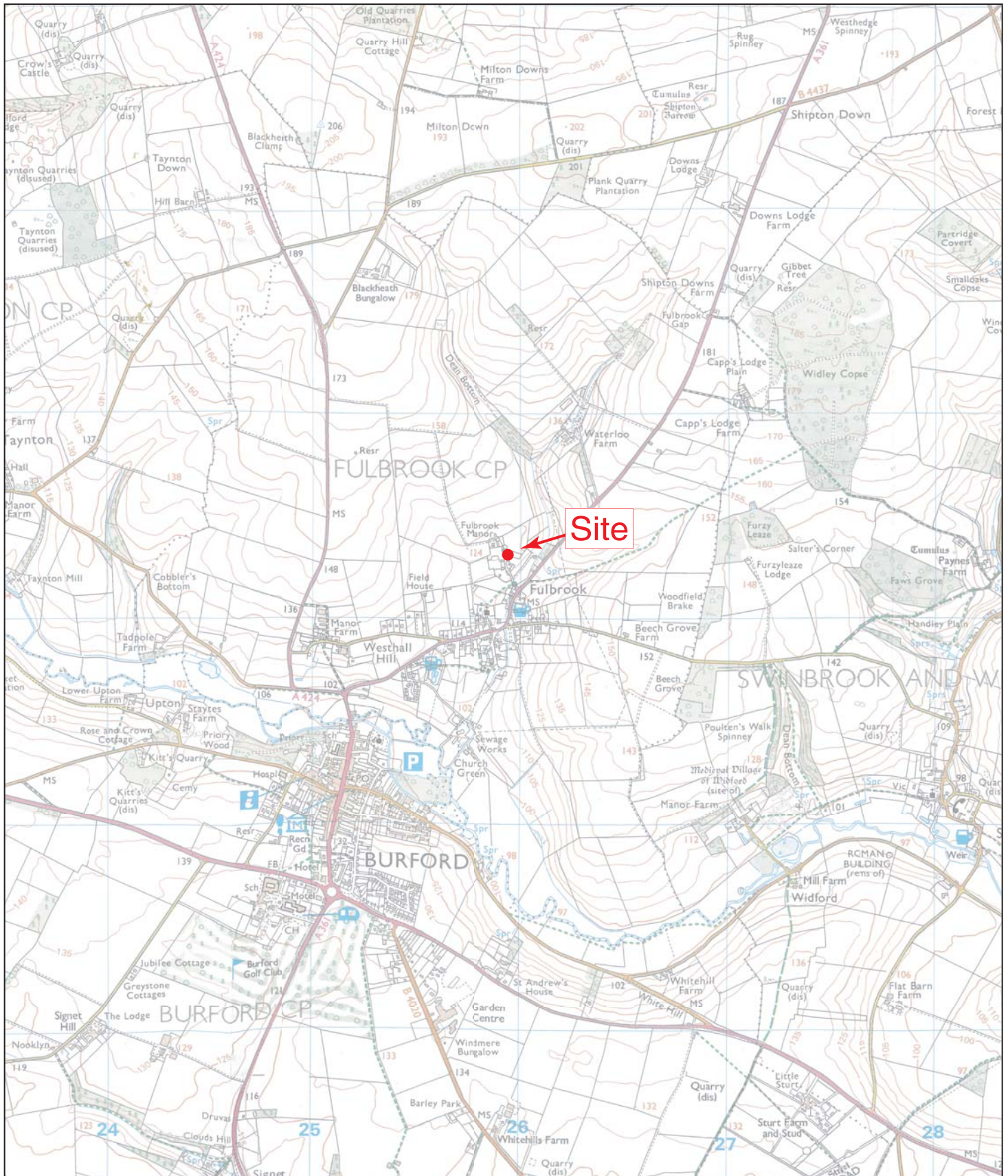
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	101	Layer		Topsoil	Loose dark black grey brown silt containing rare modern refuse including fragments of modern CBM; root affected			0.5	
1	102	Deposit		Modern parking surface	Flint pebble forming current surface of parking area			0.1	
1	103	Deposit		Modern made ground	Modern made ground sand clay and silt deposits			0.1 to .0.3	LC16-LC17
1	104	Masonry		Modern wall/masonry attached to modern retaining wall (106)	Modern frogged red brick and grey breeze block		0.1m	0.42	
1	105	Natural		Natural substrate	Grey Yellow limestone brash and clay;			0.08	
1	106	Masonry		Modern wall	Cotswold limestone blocks set on top of concrete slab	8	0.4	1	
1	107	Fill	108	Backfill of pit	Mid yellow grey sand silt stone with high frequency sub-angular limestone	>0.8	1.6	>0.68	Mc16-C18
1	108	Cut		Pit	Oval (?) shaped steep sided pit, not excavated to base	>0.8	1.6	>0.68	
1	109	Fill	110	Fill of feature (possible pit?)	Mid grey-brown clay-silt, rare small sub-angular limestone inclusions	>0.2	1	>0.25	MC14
1	110	Cut		Base of feature (possible pit?)	Rounded profile, mostly truncated by modern cut 122	>0.2	1	>0.25	
1	111	Fill	112	Second fill of feature (possible pit?)	Dark grey brown clay silt with rare charcoal flecks and small sub-angular limestone inclusions	>0.05	>0.6	0.16	
1	112	Cut		Cut of partially exposed feature (possible pit?)	Steep sided cut	>0.05	>0.6	0.16	
1	113	Fill	114	Construction fill of post-hole	Mid light grey brown clay sand silt	0.38	0.38	>0.4	
1	114	Cut		Posthole	Circular, vertical sides, symmetrical profile	0.38	0.38	>0.4	
1	115	Fill	116	Backfill of post-hole	Dark to mid black grey brown sand clay silt	0.4	0.4	0.08	poLC18-MC19
1	116	Cut		Base of partially exposed posthole	Oval, shallow sided with imperceptible b.o.s. to flat base	0.4	0.4	0.08	
1	117	Fill	114	Post pipe, possibly in situ degraded wood of post	Dark orange brown silt	0.1	0.1	0.4	
1	118	Fill	119	Backfill of pit	Mixed dark to light grey brown clay silt with common charcoal and brick inclusions	1	0.75	>0.3	
1	119	Cut		Pit	Oval, steep to vertical sided				
1	120	Fill	112	First fill of feature (possible pit?)	Mid to light yellow grey brown sand clay silt	>0.05	>0.72	0.16	
1	121	Fill	122	Backfill of modern truncation and water service trench, prob. associated with other modern made ground deposits, 103	Mixed yellow sand and grey brown clay and silt deposits with stone inclusions	>8	0.5 - 2.22	0.7	
1	122	Cut		Modern truncation/service trench containing water pipes	Linear, steep sided; becomes much wider in eastern side of trench	>8	0.5 - 2.22	0.7	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
103	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	1	1	LC16-LC19
107	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware	2	130	MC16-C18
109	Copper alloy jetton (Ra. 1)	1	2	MC14
115	Post-medieval pottery: Pearlware; glazed earthenware	3	24	LC18-MC19

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	2 Manor Farm Cottages, Fulbrook, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundwork associated the erection of a single storey rear extension to the property at 2 Manor Farm Cottages, Fulbrook.</p> <p>Four archaeological features interpreted as pits or possible pits, and two postholes, were identified within the eastern portion of the foundation trench. A single find from one of the probable pits could indicate a medieval or later date. The other identified features were post-medieval to modern in date or remained undated.</p>	
Project dates	26 – 27 January 2015	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	2 Manor Farm Cottages, Fulbrook, Oxfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	40m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 25941 13326	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Oxfordshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Greg Crees	
MONUMENT TYPE	Pit, Post Hole	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Token/Jetton	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (Content (
Physical		Cu/alloy token/jetton
Paper	Oxfordshire Museums Service	Pro-forma recording sheets
Digital	Oxfordshire Museums Service	Raw survey data, digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>2 Manor Farm Cottages, Fulbrook, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 15058</p>		



0 1km

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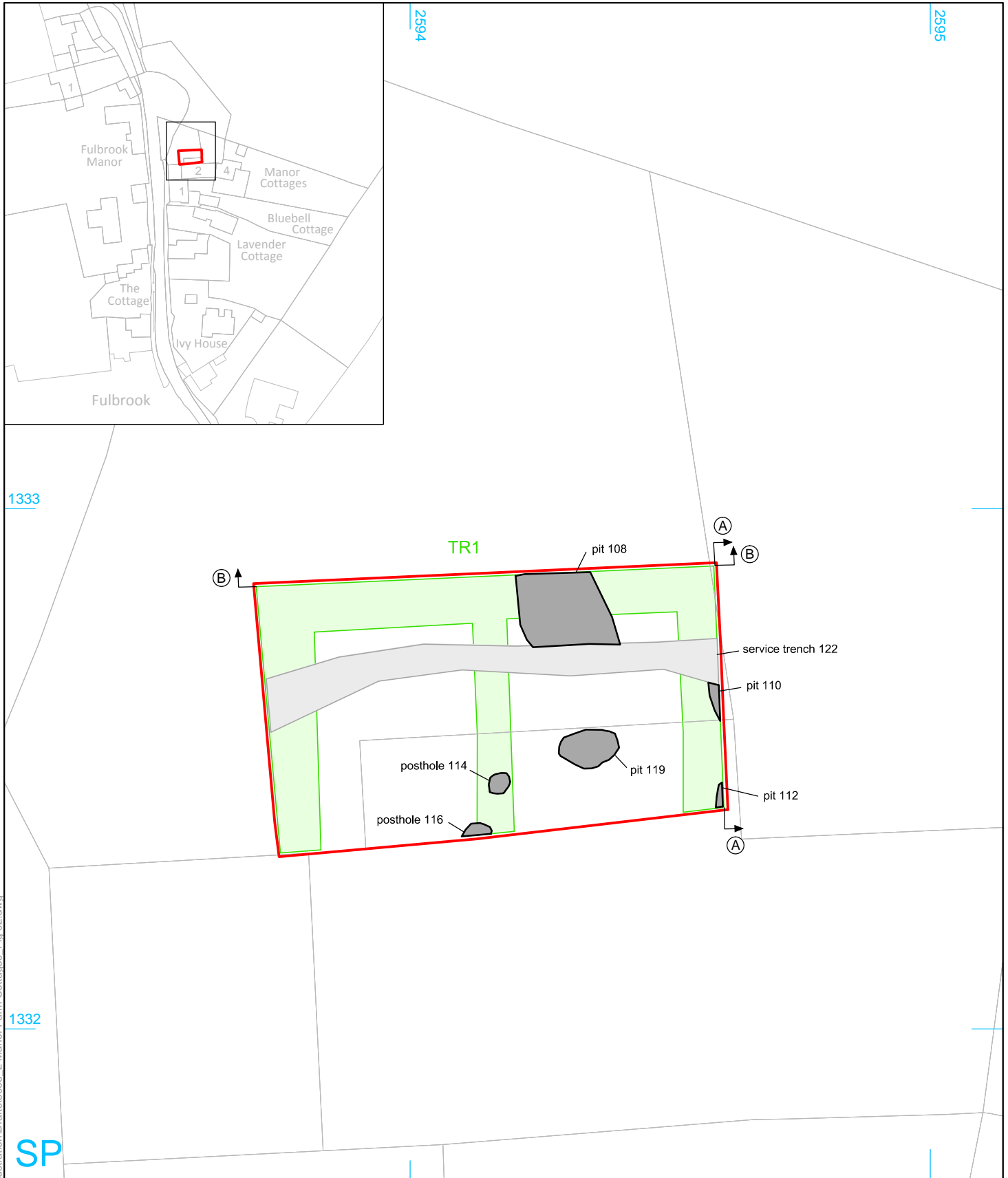
PROJECT TITLE

2 Manor Farm Cottages, Fulbrook
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

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CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	05/02/2015	
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- area of observed groundworks
- deeper groundworks
- archaeological feature
- modern



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing areas of observed
 groundworks

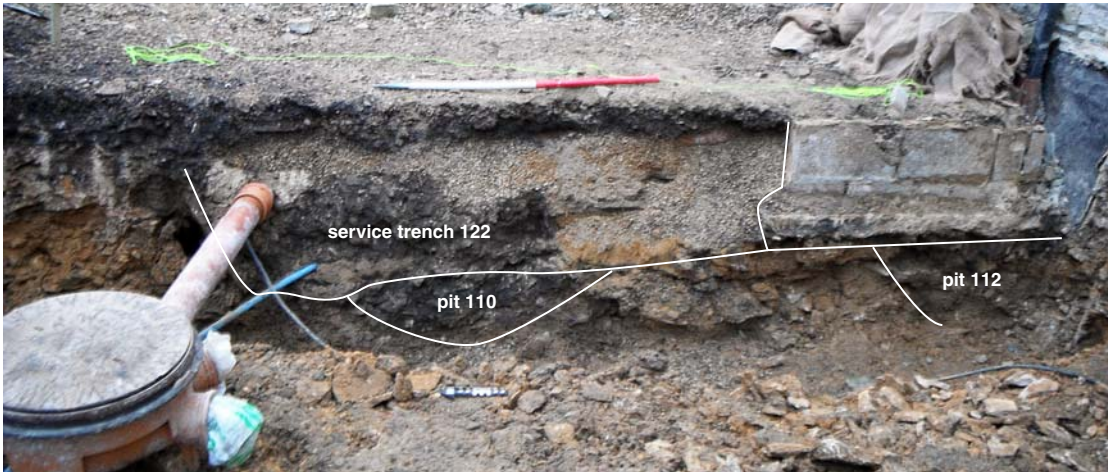
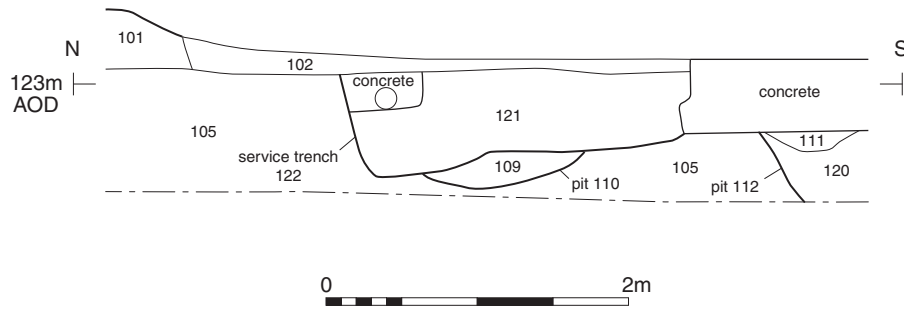
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FIGURE NO.

2



Section AA



South facing section of eastern foundation trench showing pits 110 and 112 (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

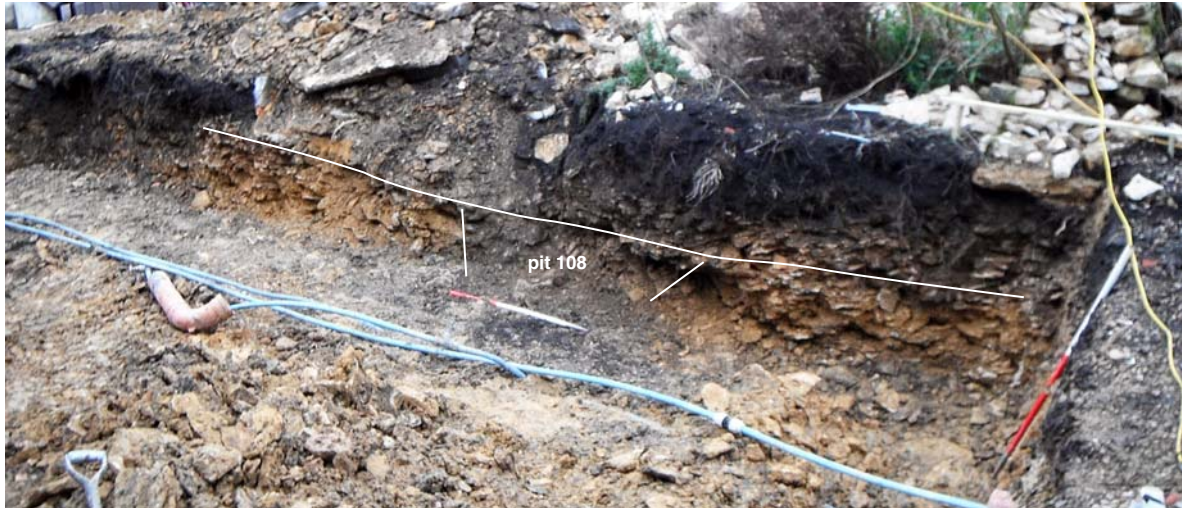
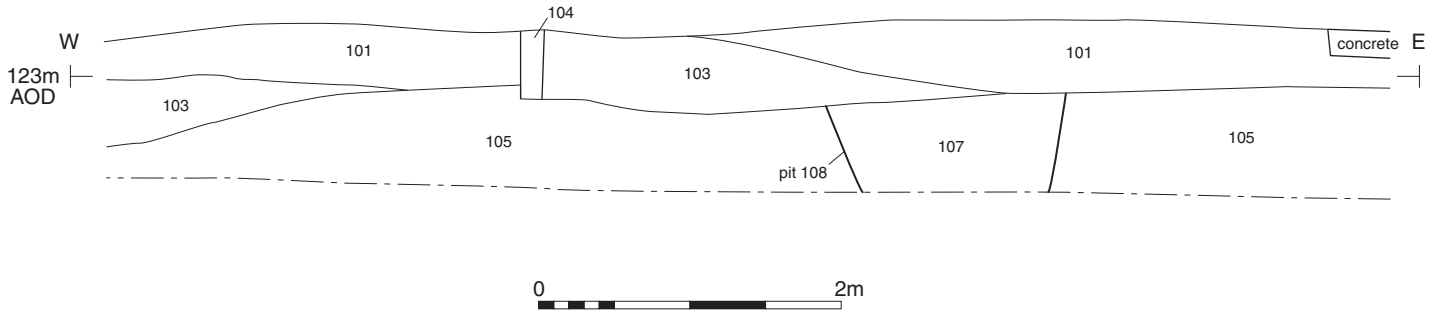
Eastern foundation trench: section and photograph

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 CHECKED BY JB DATE 04/02/2015
 APPROVED BY CMB SCALE@A3 1:50

FIGURE NO.

3

Section BB



South facing section of northern foundation trench showing pit 108 (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

**Northern foundation trench: section
 and photograph**

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FIGURE NO.

4



5 Copper alloy jetton from pit 110



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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<i>CHECKED BY</i>	JB	<i>DATE</i>	05/02/2015		
<i>APPROVED BY</i>	CMB	<i>SCALE@A4</i>	NA		