



**Wood Lane Police Station
Chippenham
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Wiltshire Council

CA Project: 4769
CA Report: 14105

March 2014

Wood Lane Police Station Chippenham Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 4796
CA Report: 14105

prepared by Sian Reynish, Project Supervisor
date 10 March 2014
checked by Ian Barnes, Project Manager
date 21 March 2014
approved by Cliff Bateman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed
date 25 March 2014
issue 01

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

© Cotswold Archaeology

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

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
<i>The site</i>	3
<i>Archaeological background</i>	3
<i>Archaeological objectives</i>	4
<i>Methodology</i>	4
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4).....	5
<i>The finds</i>	6
<i>Palaeoenvironmental evidence</i>	7
3. DISCUSSION.....	7
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	8
5. REFERENCES.....	9
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	1
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	2
APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	2
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM	3

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
 Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:500)
 Fig. 3 Trench 2: sections (1:10)
 Fig. 4 Trench 2: photograph

SUMMARY

Project Name: Wood Lane Police Station
Location: Chippenham, Wiltshire
NGR: ST 9214 7293
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 5-7 March 2014
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Chippenham Museum
Site Code: WLP 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2014 at Wood Lane Police Station, Chippenham, Wiltshire. Five trenches were excavated.

The evaluation revealed three shallow ditches towards the northern end of the site which contained sherds of medieval pottery and fragments of animal bone.

Evidence of modern truncation was identified throughout the western extent of the site.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Wiltshire Council at Wood Lane Police Station, Chippenham, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 9214 7293; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken at the request of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council, in support of a planned submission which is anticipated to be made to Wiltshire Council for the development of the site.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), 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 Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 7 March 2014.

The site1.3The proposed development area is 1ha in extent. The site contains the former Wood Lane Police Station, a disused Victorian school building and a single storey storage building and area of hard standing is bounded to the north by the Flowers Yard, fullers close development, to the south by residential estates, to the east by Wood Lane and to the west by sports grounds. The site lies between 45m and 58m AOD, sloping steeply downhill towards the west.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Formation sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Jurassic Period (BGS 2014). Sandy clay with bluey grey mottling was observed in four trenches.

Archaeological background1.5 Chippenham has been subject to a number of assessments as well as an extensive urban survey (McMahon 2004). These form the basis of this summary.

1.6 The area may not have been intensively settled in the prehistoric or Roman periods, although later documentary sources suggest some form of settlement in the locality (*ibid.*).

- 1.7 Evidence from the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods is variable, demonstrating that Chippenham rivalled the centres at Calne, Cricklade, Malmesbury and Wilton for a time. To date, no clearly demonstrable features of Saxon date have been recorded within the historic core of the town (*ibid.*).
- 1.8 Mapping from 1886 (1:500 scale) several unidentified buildings on the site with additional buildings show in 1889 (1:10,560 scale). This could be the school that is identified as such in the 1923-24 mapping (1:2,500). The police station was first noted on mapping from 1960 to 1968 (1:10,560 and 1:2,500 scale respectively).
- 1.9 A Desk Based Assessment (CAT 2000) and trial trench evaluation (CA 2003) have been completed at Flowers Yard, directly to the north of the site. The evaluation identified medieval ditches and gullies, as well as post-medieval and early modern walls and a possible building foundation (CA 2003).

Archaeological objectives

- 110 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009). This information will enable Wiltshire 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).

Methodology

- 1.11 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of five trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The current trench layout differs from the layout as originally planned due to the presence of overhead and buried services as well as trees. 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* (2012).
- 1.12 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or

the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

- 1.13 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003), one sample was taken and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.14 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 Chippenham Museum, 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.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 2.2 Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5 were devoid of archaeological features. The natural geological substrate, yellow sand clay was observed in trenches 1,2 and five, typically 0.65m below present ground level (bpgl). This was sealed by layers of makeup and subsoil which was overlain by topsoil. Trench 4 was excavated to a depth of 1.7m bpgl revealing a makeup deposit with abundant modern brick, plastic, metal, sand bag and china inclusions. This area of the site had previously been built up to level out a steep slope for the construction of a car park.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 -4)

- 2.3 The natural sand clay was revealed at 0.8m bpgl and was cut by three ditches. The earliest ditch, 308, was aligned east/west, it measured 0.54m in width and 0.04m in depth, and contained fill; 309. This ditch was cut by ditch 304 to the west and ditch 306 to the east.

- 2.4 Ditch 304 was aligned north-west/south-east aligned ditch was v-shaped in profile and measured 0.3m in width and 0.21m depth. A sherd of medieval pottery (dating to the 12th to 13th century) and fragments of cattle bone were recovered from its single fill 305. Ditch 306 was aligned north-west/south-east. It measured 0.54m in width and 0.05m in depth and contained one fill,307. Sherds of medieval pottery and fragments of cattle bone were recovered from fill 307. Several pieces of the same vessel of medieval pottery dating to 12th to early-14th century was recovered;a white internal residue is thought to be limescale. Associated with this was a single poorly preserved and unidentifiable cereal grain and a small amount of charcoal. The assemblage is too small and poorly preserved to interpret what activities were taking place on site
- 2.4 The ditches were sealed by subsoil 302 in the west of the trench and were truncated to the east potentially by a levelling event for the construction of the school. Ditches 306 and 308 were truncated by modern pit 310. The subsoil was in turn sealed by make-up deposit 301 which was overlain by a levelling deposit 312 for the tarmac playground 300.

The finds

Pottery: Medieval

- 2.5 One bodysherd of pottery in an unglazed sandy coarseware fabric, with an applied vertical strip, was recovered from fill 305 of ditch 304. A broad 12th to 13th century dating is suggested.
- 2.6 Eight sherds in an unglazed sandy coarseware fabric were recovered from fill 307 of ditch 306, the majority of which represented a single vessel, including four joining rimsherds. The form is a jar with a sagging base and a developed, everted rim with a groove on the top. A single baseherd, from a vessel with a sagging base, in a vesicular/quartz sand-tempered fabric was also recovered from fill 307. The pottery from this deposit is dated to the 12th to early-14th centuries.

Faunal Remains

- 2.7 Three fragments of animal bone (226g) were recovered from fills 305 and 307 (within ditches 304 and 306 respectively), in association with artefacts dating to the medieval period. The bones were in a moderate state of preservation, but highly fragmented with frequent modern damage noted. For the purpose of this report, the

bones were quantified by fragment count and weight and identified to species and skeletal element using an osteological reference collection (Cotswold Archaeology Ltd) as well as standard reference literature (Schmid 1972, Hillson 1996). Where modern breakage was observed and re-fitting was possible, those fragments were recorded as a single bone. Recovery was by hand excavation and bulk sampling. All fragments were identifiable as cattle (*Bos taurus*).

- 2.8 There is very little interpretative data to be gained from an assemblage of this size. However, fill 307 within the ditch revealed the fragmented remains of two adult cattle.

Palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 2.9 One environmental sample was retrieved from fill 307 of ditch 306, dated to the medieval period, with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 2.10 The sample contained a single poorly preserved and unidentifiable cereal grain. A small amount of charcoal was also recovered, but was highly fragmented and poorly preserved. It was, however, possible to identify two fragments of oak and one fragment of cherry tree *sp.* The poor preservation of the plant macrofossils and the highly-fragmented nature of the charcoal suggests they accumulated as wind-blown debris. The assemblage is too small to ascertain what activities were taking place on site.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation identified three shallow ditches in the north eastern part of the site, from which sherds of medieval pottery dating to the 11th-early 14th centuries were recovered. These ditches are similar to those found close to a possible wall foundation trench, within the archaeological evaluation at Flowers Yard (immediately north of the site) in (CA 2003). Ditch 304 parallel to Wood Lane and to the ditches in the 2003, evaluation and therefore is likely to be part of the same phase of activity. Ditch 308 may represent an earlier phase of activity with ditch 306 being a replacement for ditch 308 and in the same phase of activity as ditch 304. The alignment of the ditches may suggest that they formed a field system or

domestic plots. The proximity of medieval and post-medieval building remains identified to the north of the site may be indicative of the ditches being associated with settlement activity. CA 2003 notes that there was no evidence for continuous occupation and suggests that the ditches seen at Flowers Yard represented drainage at the periphery of the main medieval settlement.

- 3.2 Much of the site was truncated by levelling and terracing of the site during construction of the school around the turn of the 20th century, as identified in trench 3, and police station in the 1960s. Therefore it is likely that if any archaeological remains were previously at the site have been removed by these foundations.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish, assisted by Anthony Beechey and Andrew Loader. The report was written by Sian Reynish. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke, and the palaeoenvironmental report was written by Sarah Cobain. The illustrations were prepared by Ian Atkins. The archive has been compiled by Sian Reynish, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.



5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 26 February 2014
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2003 *Flowers Yard, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Report No. **03091**
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Wood Lane Police Station, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
- CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 2000 *Flowers Yard, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Assessment* CAT Report No. **001259**
- Hillson, S. 1996 *Mammal bones and teeth: An introductory guide to methods of identification* The Institute of Archaeology. University of London
- McMahon, P 2004 *The Archaeology of Wiltshire's Towns. An Extensive Urban Survey: Chippenham*
- Schmid, E. 1972 *Atlas of animal bones: For prehistorians, archaeologists and quaternary geologists* Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Company



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	dark brownish grey clayey silt	>20.9	>1.8	0.17	
1	101	Layer		make-up layer	mid yellowish grey slightly sandy clayey silt and gravel, more pronounced in NE end of trench	>20.9	>1.8	0.11 to 0.18	
1	102	Layer		make-up layer	mid reddish brown sandy gravel, only visible in NE end of trench	>20.9	>1.8	0.08	
1	103	Layer		make-up layer	dark brownish grey slightly ashy clayey silt	>20.9	>1.8	0.31	
1	104	Layer		natural substrate	light brownish yellow sandy clay with bluey grey mottling	>20.9	>1.8	>0.05	
2	20	Layer		topsoil	dark brownish grey clayey silt	>13.3	>1.8	0.29	
2	201	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown slightly sandy clayey silt	>13.3	>1.8	0.18	
2	202	Layer		natural substrate	light brownish yellow sandy clay with bluey grey mottling	>13.3	>1.8	0.05	
3	300	Layer		playground surface	tarmac	>10.6	>1.8	0.07	
3	301	Layer		make-up layer	mixed layer comprising light yellowish grey silty clay, mid-dark bluey grey clay and dark greyish black ashy clayey silt	>10.6	>1.8	0.48	
3	302	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown slightly sandy clayey silt	>10.6	>1.8	0.16	
3	303	Layer		natural substrate	light brownish yellow sandy clay with bluey grey mottling	>10.6	>1.8	>0.06	
3	304	Cut		ditch	NE-SW ditch V-shaped in profile		0.3	0.21	
3	305	Fill	304	fill of ditch	mid yellowish brown clayey silt		0.3	0.21	C12-C13
3	306	Cut		ditch	NE-SW shallow ditch		0.54	0.05	
3	307	Fill	306	fill of ditch	mid yellowish brown clayey silt		0.54	0.05	C12-EC14
3	308	Cut		ditch	E-W shallow ditch		0.54	0.04	
3	309	Fill	308	fill of ditch	light yellowish brown clayey silt		0.54	0.04	
3	310	Cut		modern pit	irregular circle in plan with vertical sides	0.5	0.45	0.15	
3	311	Fill	310	fill of modern pit	mid-dark bluey grey clay containing modern brick	0.5	0.45	0.15	
3	312	Layer		make-up/levelling layer	loose tarmac and crushed brick	>10.6	>1.8	0.09	
4	400	Layer		topsoil	dark brownish grey clayey silt	>9.8	>1.8	0.43	
4	401	Layer		make-up layer	mid yellowish grey clayey silt with abundant modern brick, plastic, metal, sand bags and china	>9.8	>1.8	>1.27	
5	500	Layer		topsoil	dark brownish grey clayey silt	>5	>1.8	0.36	
5	501	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown slightly sandy clayey silt	>5	>1.8	0.28	
5	502	Layer		natural substrate	light brownish yellow sandy clay with bluey grey mottling	>5	>1.8	>0.08	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
305	Medieval pottery: sandy coarseware	1	19	C12-C13
307	Medieval pottery: sandy coarseware	9	459	C12-EC14

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Plant macrofossil identifications

Context number				307
Feature number				306
Sample number (SS)				1
Flot volume (ml)				2
Sample volume processed (l)				2
Soil remaining (l)				0
Period				Medieval
Plant macrofossil preservation				Poor
Habitat Code	Family	Species	Common Name	
E	Poaceae	<i>Poaceae</i>	Indeterminate cereal grain	+
Flot inclusions				
Charcoal quantity				++ (s)

Charcoal identifications

Context number				307
Feature number				306
Sample number (SS)				1
Flot volume (ml)				2
Sample volume processed (l)				2
Soil remaining (l)				0
Period				Medieval
Charcoal preservation				Poor
Charcoal quantity				++ (s)
Family	Species	Common Name		
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Oak sp		
Rosaceae	<i>Prunus</i> sp	Cherry tree sp.	+	

Key

E = economic species

+ = 1-4 items; ++ = 5-20 items; +++ = 21-40 items; ++++ = 40+ items

(s) = the majority of the charcoal fragments highly fragmented and too small to identify

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM**PROJECT DETAILS**

Project Name	Wood Lane Police Station, Chippenham, Wiltshire
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2014 at Wood Lane Police Station, Chippenham, Wiltshire. Five trenches were excavated. The evaluation revealed three shallow ditches towards the northern end of the site which contained sherds of medieval pottery and fragments of animal bone. A large fragmented piece of medieval pottery dating to 12th to early-14th century was recovered with a white internal residue which is thought to be limescale from the boiling of water. Evidence of modern truncation was identified throughout the western extent of the site.
Project dates	5-7 March 2014
Project type	Evaluation
Previous work	None
Future work	Unknown

PROJECT LOCATION

Site Location	Wood Lane Police Station, Chippenham, Wiltshire
Study area (M ² /ha)	1ha
Site co-ordinates	ST 9214 7293

PROJECT CREATORS

Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	none
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Ian Barnes
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish

MONUMENT TYPE

None

SIGNIFICANT FINDS

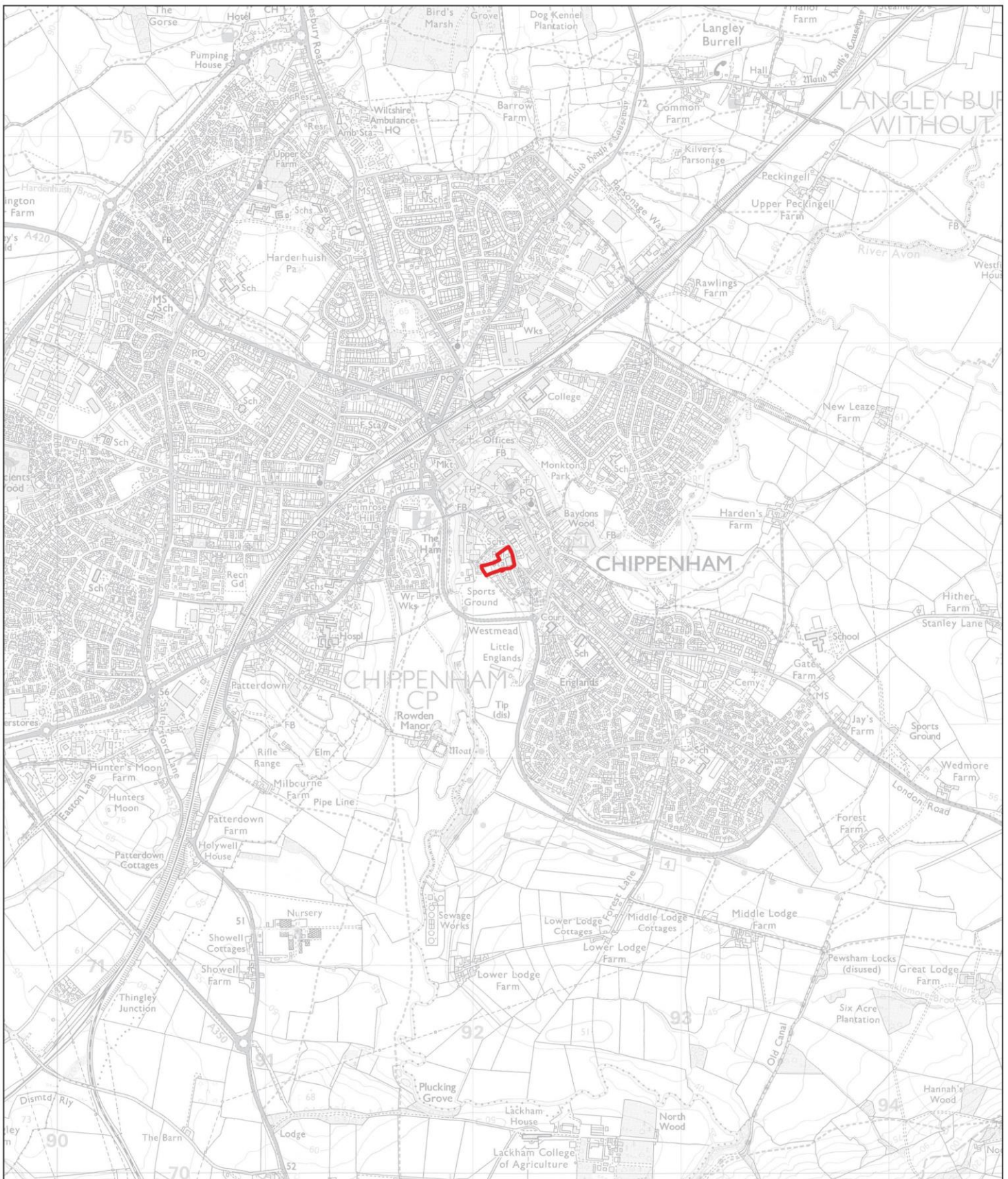
None

PROJECT ARCHIVES

	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Chippenham Museum	Pottery and animal bone
Paper	Chippenham Museum	Trench sheets, context sheets, sections, digital photographic register
Digital	Chippenham Museum	Digital plan and digital photographs

BIBLIOGRAPHY

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Wood Lane Police Station, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation*.
CA typescript report **14105**



N

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.0 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.7 1.8 1.9 2.0

1 • km

Reproduced from the XXXX Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © crown copyright
Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109

6

JV-

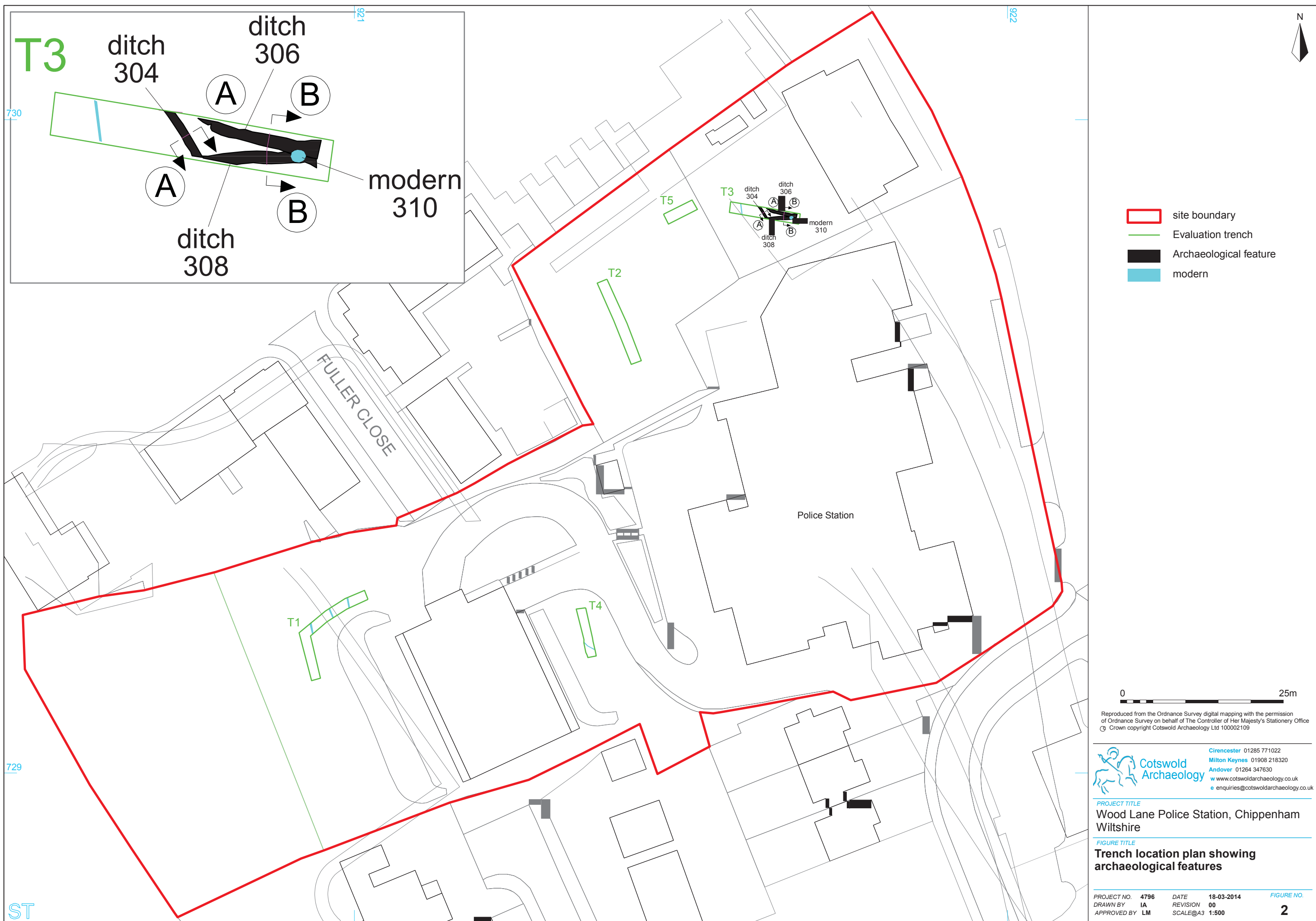
Cotswold Archaeology

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

PROJECT TITLE
Wood Lane Police Station, Chippenham
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4796	DATE 18-03-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY IA	REVISION 00	1
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	



- site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- modern



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey digital mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
 © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109

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

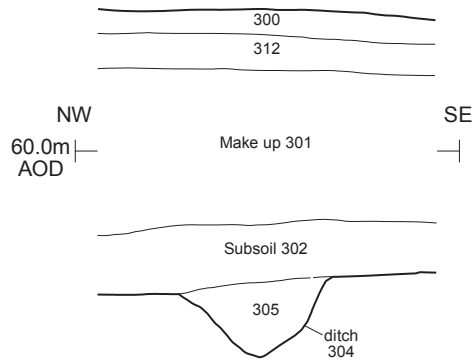
PROJECT TITLE
 Wood Lane Police Station, Chippenham
 Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing
 archaeological features

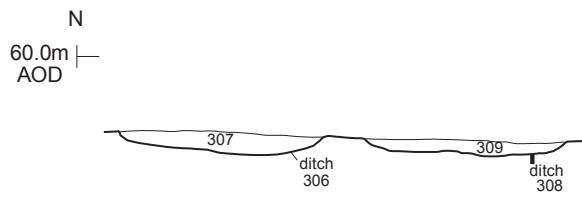
PROJECT NO.	4796	DATE	18-03-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	IA	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:500	

ST

Section AA



Section BB



**Cotswold
Archaeology**

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

PROJECT TITLE

Wood Lane Police Station, Chippenham
 Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3: sections



PROJECT NO. 4796 DATE 18-03-2014
 DRAWN BY IA REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

3



4 Trench 3, looking west (scales 1m)

PROJECT TITLE

Wood Lane Police Station, Chippenham
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

