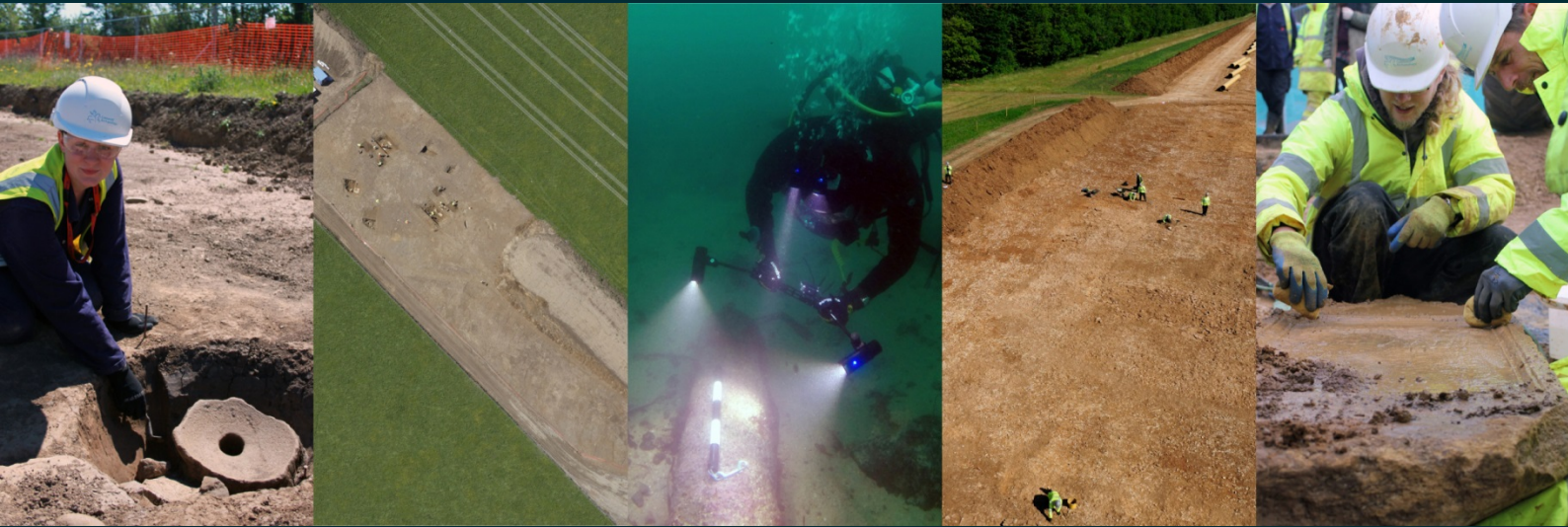


# Crown Timber Site South Marston, Swindon Wiltshire

## *Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Hartwells

CA Project: 5720  
CA Report: 16230

April 2016



# Crown Timber Site South Marston, Swindon Wiltshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5720  
CA Report: 16230



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	26 April 2016	James Coyne		Internal review		Cliff Bateman

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Crown Timber Site
<b>Location:</b>	South Marston, Swindon
<b>NGR:</b>	SU 1897 8750
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	5-7 April 2016
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	CTST16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2016 at the Crown Timber site, South Marston, Swindon, Wiltshire. Five trenches were excavated.

A pit/ditch terminus of possible medieval date and three undated tree throws were identified during the current works. Evidence of modern landscaping and truncation, most probably associated with the former aircraft factory and/or the former sewage works, was revealed throughout the site.





## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Hartwells at the Crown Timber site, South Marston, Swindon, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 1897 8750; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to support a planning application that is being submitted to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) for development of the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was recommended by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council and the archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council, and in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), 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 site, which is approximately 1.9ha in extent, comprises areas of hardstanding and scrubland and contains a vacant large industrial building in its northern area. It is bounded to the north and west by the Honda works and to the east by a field situated on the southern side of a small tributary to the River Colne. The northern boundary is also marked by a brook.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area comprises Ampthill Clay Formation with no superficial deposits being recorded within the site (BGS 2016). The natural substrate encountered in each of the trenches comprised clay with gravels.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background to the application area has previously been detailed in a Heritage Desk-based Assessment (WA 2014). The assessment noted that there are no scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, or battlefields within the application site or the immediate area (ibid.).

- 2.2 The assessment established that from the Iron Age onwards the site was situated within the rural hinterland of scattered Iron Age settlements, and subsequently the Roman town of *Durocornovium* and the medieval village of South Marston. Extensive, though untested, evidence for later prehistoric, Roman and medieval field systems and settlement activity has been revealed in the vicinity of the application area through geophysical survey and assessment of aerial photographs (ibid.).
- 2.3 The assessment also noted that the site is situated within the boundaries of the Second World War South Marston aircraft factory. A, now disused, industrial building present within the north-eastern extent of the site is most probably associated with the former factory. The western part of the site formed part of a later 20th-century sewage works (ibid.).
- 2.4 A detailed magnetometer survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd throughout the site. It identified several weakly positive linear anomalies in the eastern part of the site; however, the topsoil appears to have been removed or lowered in this vicinity, and widespread magnetic disturbance from an adjacent steel building has obscured the anomalies. The remainder of the site contained widespread magnetic debris from modern ferrous material associated with ground make-up. Services/pipes appear to be associated with the former sewage works located in the western corner of the site (AS 2016).

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable SBC 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 evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches, totalling 235 linear metres and representing a 2.5% sample of the proposed development area, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Four of the trenches measured 50m in length, with one being 35m long, and all were 2m in width. A contingency for up to a further 25 linear metres of trenching was not invoked. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS, and scanned for live services by trained Cotswold Archaeology staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the Cotswold Archaeology Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services. The position of the trenches was adjusted on site to account for services and other constraints, with the approval of the archaeological advisor to SBC. The final 'as dug' trench plan was recorded with GPS.
- 4.2 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*, but 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 Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Wiltshire Museum, 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.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

No archaeological features/deposits predating the modern period were identified in Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5, with the possible exception of a sterile tree-throw in Trench 2.

- 5.2 Modern landscaping, presumably associated with the former aircraft factory and/or the later sewage works, was evidenced by modern deposits and made-ground in Trenches 2, 3 and 4. Modern truncation, again most probably of mid 20th-century origin, was revealed throughout Trench 1, where topsoil directly sealed the natural substrate.
- 5.3 With Trench 5 a field drain correlated closely with the location of a geophysical anomaly (anomaly 1). No evidence of the two further linear geophysical anomalies targeted by this trench was identified, suggesting they may survive solely as topsoil features.

### ***Trench 2 (Fig 2)***

- 5.4 Pit/ditch terminus was revealed cutting the natural clay and sealed by subsoil 303 close to the south-western extent of the trench. It was at least 1m in length, 1.25m in width and 0.19m in depth (Fig. 3; section AA). It contained a single fill, 306, from which a sherd of pottery, broadly dated to the medieval period, was recovered.
- 5.5 Two undated tree-throws, 308 and 310, were excavated in the central/northern extent of the trench.

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered during the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below.

### **Pottery**

- 6.2 A single sherd of medieval pottery, weighing 25g, was recorded from pit 305 (fill 306) (Appendix B). The unfeatured base sherd of Minety ware (**OXBB**), a calcareous gravel-tempered-tempered fabric, is common in the area and dateable to the mid 12th to early 16th centuries.



## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the current site and its environs, only one feature, pit/ditch terminus 305, was identified during the current works. It remains undetermined whether this seemingly isolated feature accurately reflects the paucity of archaeological features within the site, or whether previously surviving archaeological deposits were truncated during landscaping associated with the former aircraft factory and/or sewage works. Little further can be inferred from the identification of pit/ditch 305 save to note its presence.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by James Coyne, assisted by Kim Devereux-West and Callum Ruse. The report was written by James Coyne. The finds report was written by Katie Marsden. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by James Coyne, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

## 10. REFERENCES

AS (Archaeological Surveys) 2016 *Land off Thornhill Road, South Marston, Swindon, Wiltshire: Magnetometer Survey Report*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 29 February 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Crown Timber Site, South Marston, Swindon, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Mellor, M. (1994) 'A Synthesis of Middle and Late Saxon, Medieval and Early Post-Medieval Pottery in the Oxford Region', *Oxoniensia*, vol. LIX, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

WA (Wessex Archaeology) 2014 *Land at South Marston, Swindon, Wiltshire; Archaeological  
Desk-based Assessment*





## 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	Dark brown grey silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.32	
1	101	Layer		Natural	Light orangey brown firm sandy clay.	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay, with frequent modern refuse.	N/A	N/A	0.14	
2	201	Layer		Modern Gravels	Mid brown red gravelly rubble.	N/A	N/A	0.16	
2	202	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.45	
2	203	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange clay.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
2	204	Layer		Modern Rubble	Compact sandy clay, with frequent large rubble and stone inclusions.	N/A	N/A	0.42	
2	205	Layer		Made ground	Compact silty clay, with moderate charcoal, brick and stone inclusions.	N/A	N/A	0.24	
2	206	Cut		Cut of Tree Throw	Sub oval shape, with gradual to steep sides, concave base and gradual break of slope.	2.7	>1.3	0.3	
2	207	Fill	206	Fill of Tree Throw	Dark yellow brown silty clay.	2.7	>1.3	0.3	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown firm silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.17	
3	301	Layer		Made ground	Silty clay with frequent stone and occasional rubble inclusions.	N/A	N/A	0.39	
3	302	Layer		Buried Soil/Overburden	Mid grey brown silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.27	
3	303	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.25	
3	304	Layer		Natural	Light orange grey silty clay.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3	305	Cut		Cut of Pit/Ditch Terminus	Sub-circular shape in plan, with concave, asymmetrical, moderately sloping sides, concave base and gradual break of slope	>1.0	1.25	0.19	
3	306	Fill	305	Fill of Pit/Ditch Terminus	Light brown grey silty clay. Contains a single sherd of pottery	>1.0	1.25	0.19	C12-16
3	307	Layer		Overburden	Mid orange brown silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.28	
3	308	Cut		Cut of Tree Throw	Sub-oval shape in plan, with concave, asymmetrical moderately sloping sides, rounded base with a gradual break of slope.	1.12	1.1	0.23	
3	309	Fill	308	Fill of Tree Throw	Light brown grey silty clay.	1.12	1.1	0.23	
3	310	Cut		Cut of Tree Throw	Sub-oval/irregular in plan with moderate sides and an irregular base, and gradual break of slope.	>2.0	>1.8	0.38	
3	311	Fill	310	Fill of Tree Throw	Mid blue brown silty clay.	>2.0	>1.8	0.38	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
4A	400A	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.18	
4A	401A	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown grey silty.	N/A	N/A	0.42	

4A	402A	Layer		Natural	Light grey brown clay.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
4A	403A	Cut		Cut of Modern Drain	Modern drain.	>2.0	0.4	N/A	
4A	404A	Fill		Fill of Modern Drain	Mixed dark grey brown sandy clay and light yellow brown silty clay.	>2.0	0.4	N/A	
4A	405A	Layer		Modern	Compact silty clay with moderate small angular stones.	3.0	>1.8		
4A	406A	Layer		Modern	Compact silty clay with very few inclusions. May be the same as blue alluvial clay observed within Trench 4B.	9.0	>1.8		
4A	407A	Layer		Modern	Compact silty clay with very few inclusions.	>4.0	>1.8		
4A	408A	Layer		Made Ground	Silty sand with small to medium modern stone and rubble.	N/A	N/A	0.39	
4A	409A	Layer		Concrete		N/A	N/A	0.3	
4A	410A	Layer		Tarmac		N/A	N/A	0.05	
4A	411A	Layer		Made Ground	Compact silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-rounded stones.	N/A	N/A	0.37	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
4B	400B	Layer		Tarmac		N/A	N/A	0.05	
4B	401B	Layer		Concrete		N/A	N/A	0.5	
4B	402B	Layer		Made Ground	Silty sand with moderate small sub-angular stones.	N/A	N/A	0.3	
4B	403B	Layer		Alluvial Deposit	Dark grey blue silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.43	
4B	404B	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
4B	405B	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.06	
4B	406B	Layer		Made Ground	Compact silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded stones.	N/A	N/A	0.19	
4B	407B	Layer		Made Ground	Silty sand with very few inclusions. Possibly the same as 408A.	N/A	N/A	0.34	
4B	408B	Cut		Cut of Modern Feature	Possible modern ditch with vertical sides and a flat base. Appears to cut into alluvium 403B.	>1.8	0.54	0.42	
4B	409B	Fill		Fill of Modern Feature	Dark brown red silty clay. Same as 407A.				

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.1	
5	501	Layer		Alluvial Deposit	Dark orange brown silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.61	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Light orange silty clay with frequent limestone inclusions.	N/A	N/A	N/A	

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
306	Medieval pottery	<b>OXBB</b>	1	25	MC12-EC16

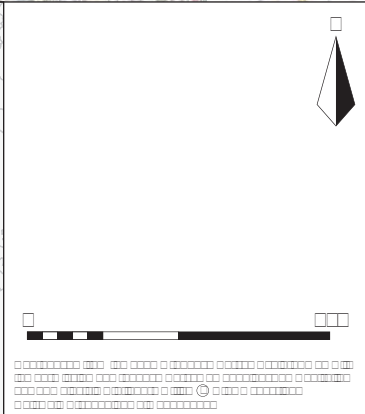
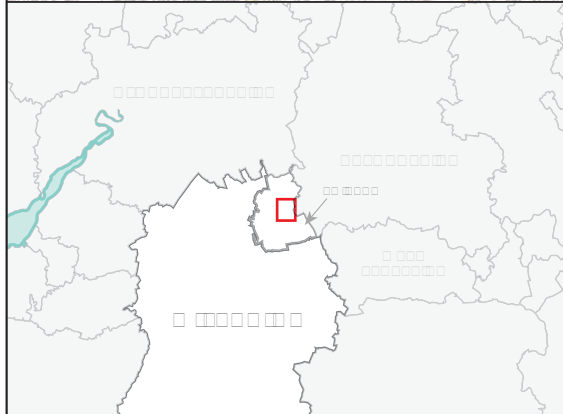
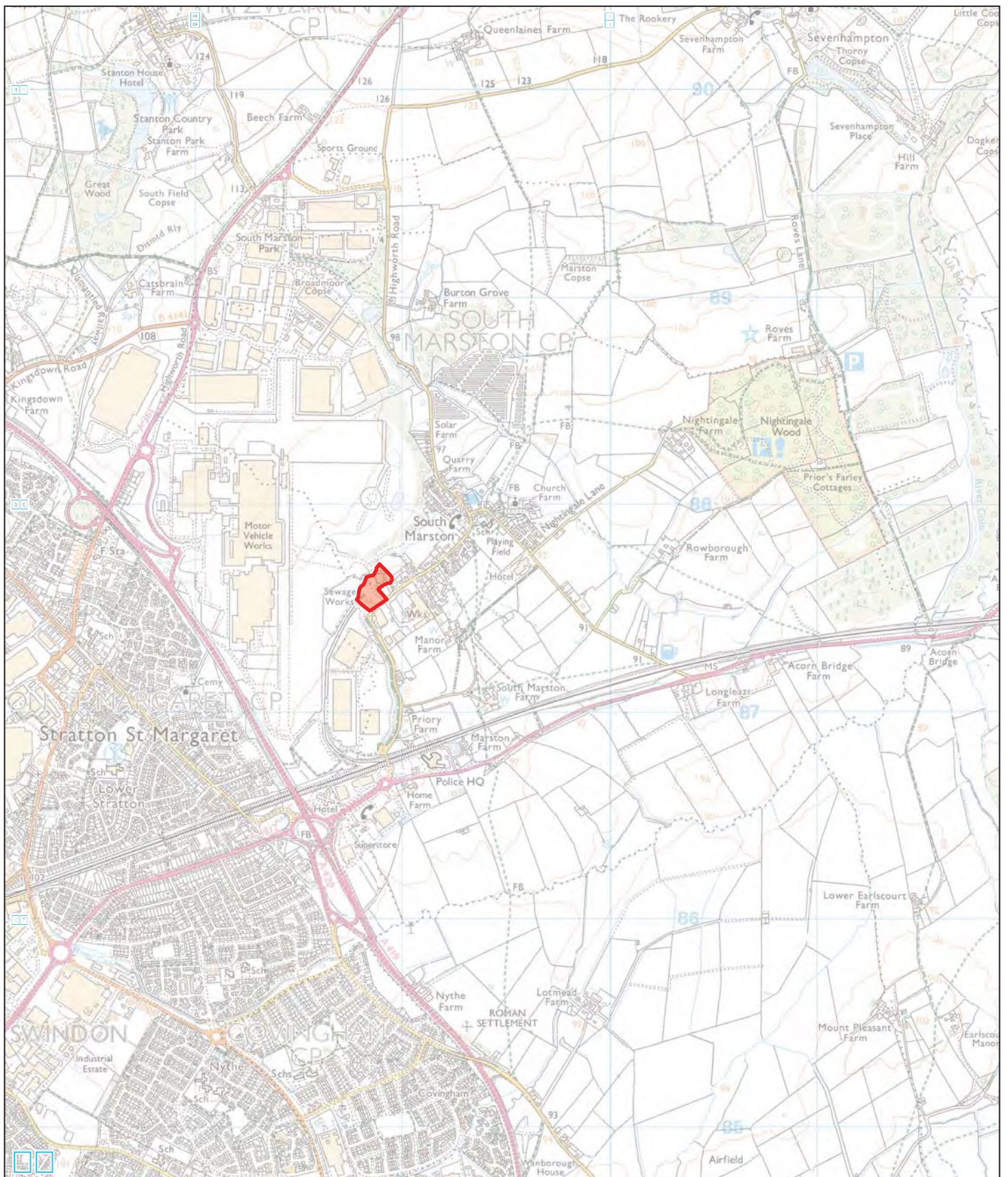
*Fabric code table*

Period	Fabric code	Description
medieval	<b>OXBB</b>	Calcareous gravel-tempered, Minety ware

*Codes in bold equate to Mellor's (1994) type series*

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Crown Timber Site, South Marston, Swindon, Wiltshire.	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2016 at the Crown Timber Site, South Marston, Swindon, Wiltshire. Five trenches were.</p> <p>A pit/ditch terminus of possible medieval date, and three undated tree throws were identified during the current works. Evidence of modern landscaping and truncation, most probably associated with the former aircraft factory and/or former sewage works, was revealed throughout the site.</p>	
Project dates	5-7th April 2016	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment. Geophysical survey.	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Crown Timber Site, South Marston, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1.9ha	
Site co-ordinates	SU 1897 8750	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	James Coyne	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Wiltshire Museum	Ceramic pottery
Paper	Wiltshire Museum	Context sheets, trench sheets, photographic registers and drawings.
Digital	Wiltshire Museum	Digital photographs.
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Crown Timber Site, South Marston, Swindon, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report 16230</p>		



 Cotswold Archaeology

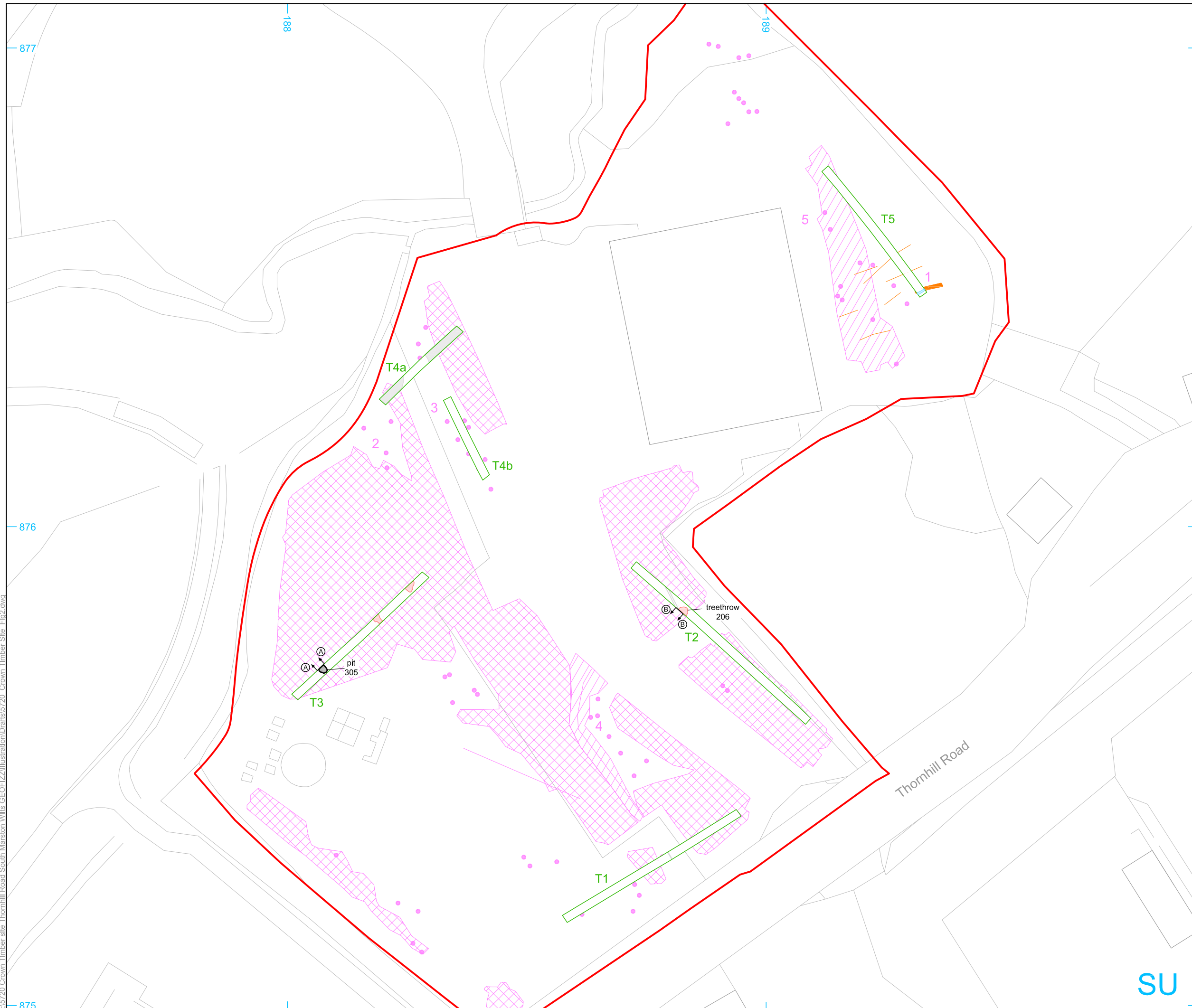
**PROJECT TITLE**  
Crown Timber Site, South Marston  
Swindon, Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Site location plan**

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<b>DRAWN BY</b>	LJH	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	5720	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	LM	<b>DATE</b>	13-04-2016		
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	CB	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000		

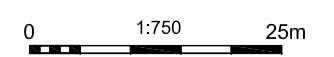




- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern
- field drain
- treethrow
- section location

**Geophysical Survey results  
(Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2015)**

- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremanent/ferrous material
- Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong multiple dipolar linear anomaly - pipeline / cable / service
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object
- 1 geophysical anomaly label



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	<b>Andover</b>	01264 347630
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Crown Timber Site, South Marston Swindon, Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trench location plan showing geophysical survey results with archaeological features overlain

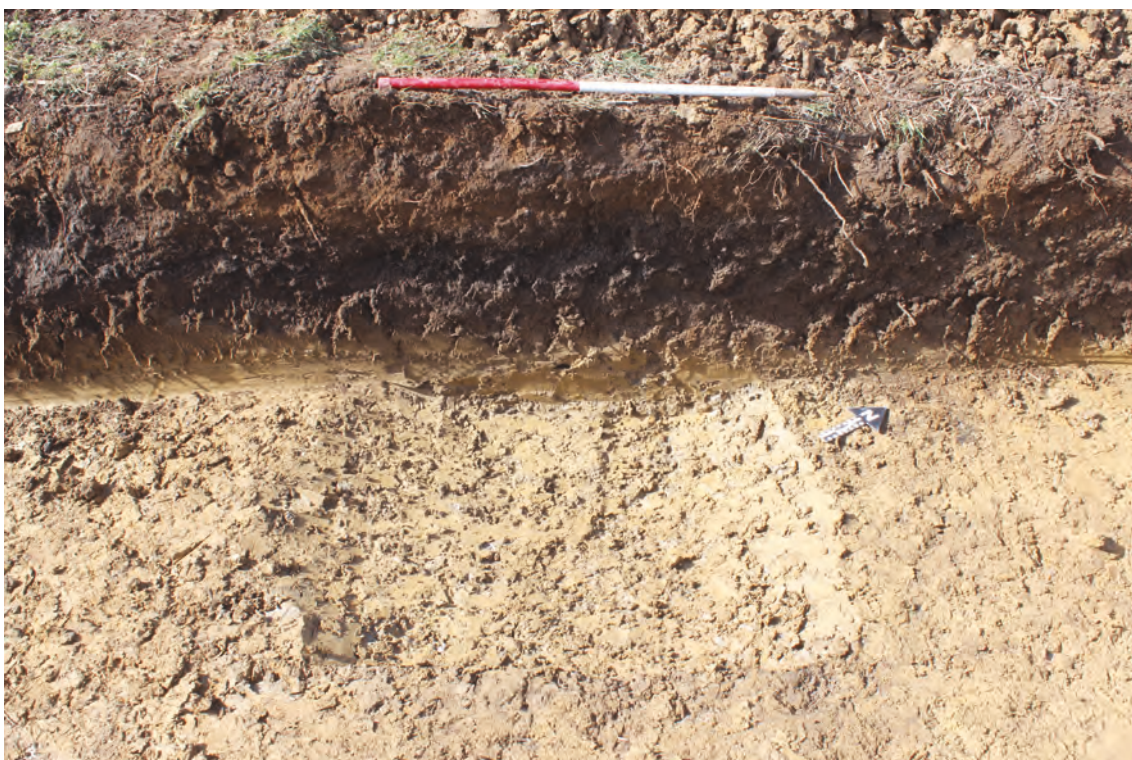
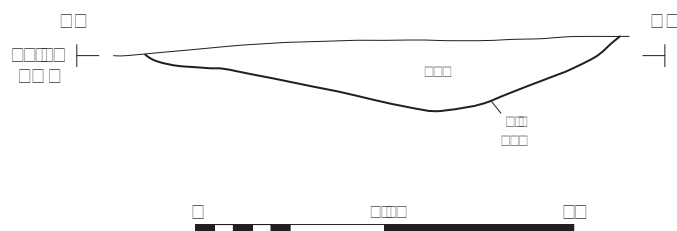
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<b>CHECKED BY</b>	LM	<b>DATE</b>	13/04/2016		
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	CB	<b>SCALE@A3</b>	1:750		



P:\5720 Crown Timber site Thornhill Road South Marston Wilts GEO\FIZ\Illustration\Drafts\5720 Crown Timber Site Fig2.dwg



Section AA



Pit 305, looking north-west (1m scale)



PROJECT TITLE

Crown Timber Site, South Marston  
Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Pit 305: section and photograph**

DRAWN BY LJM PROJECT NO. 5720  
CHECKED BY LM DATE 14/04/16  
APPROVED BY CB SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

**3**





4



5

4 General view of site looking north-east

5 Trench 3; general view looking north-east (1m scales)



PROJECT TITLE

Crown Timber Site, South Marston  
Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	5720	FIGURE NOS.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	13/04/16	4 & 5
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A4	NA	

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