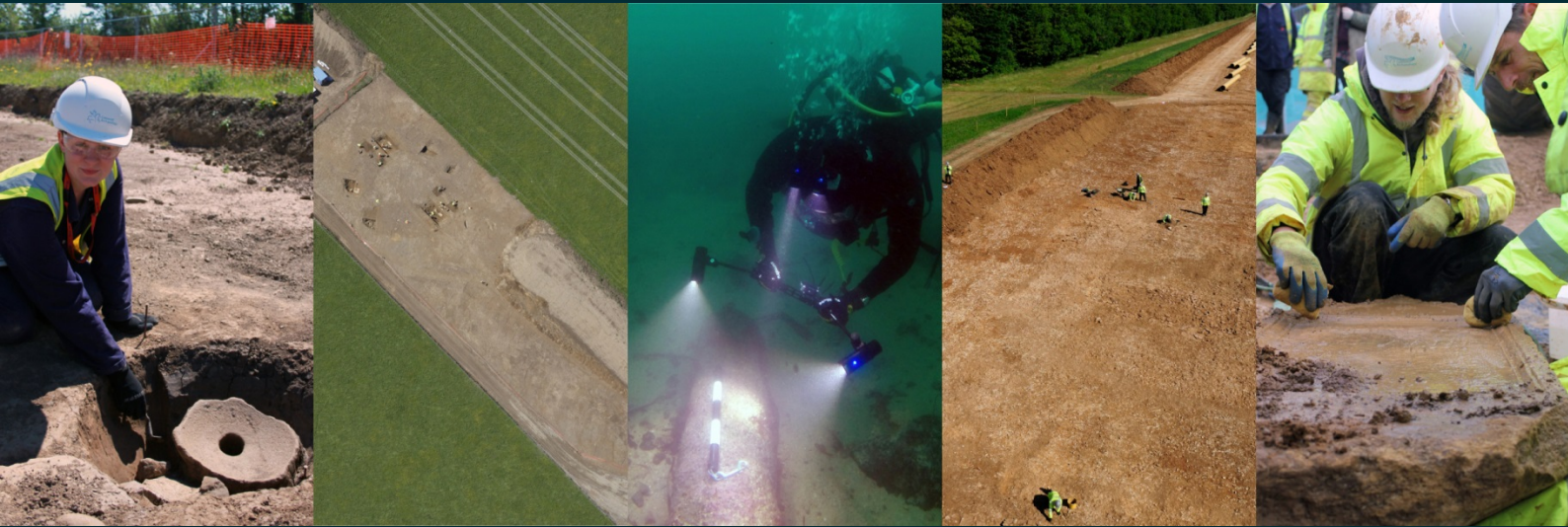


Land at Holwell Lane Cheddar Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation



for
EDP Ltd

on behalf of
Bloor Homes South West

CA Project: 880112
CA Report: 16338

June 2016



Land at Holwell Lane Cheddar Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 880112
CA Report: 16338



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	21 June 2016	Martin Gillard	Derek Evans	Internal review	N/A	Laurent Coleman
B	21 June 2016	Martin Gillard	Derek Evans	Client review	Revisions to client name and paras. 1.2 & 3.1, in line with client comments	Laurent Coleman

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.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4. METHODOLOGY	5
5. RESULTS	6
6. DISCUSSION.....	7
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	7
8. REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	9
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	10

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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

Fig. 2 The site, showing evaluation trenches and archaeological features (1:1250)



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Holwell Lane
Location:	Cheddar, Somerset
NGR:	ST 4498 5380
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	16–18 May 2016
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Museum of Somerset
Site Code:	HLC 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2016 on land at Holwell Lane, Cheddar, Somerset. A total of 10 trenches was excavated.

The evaluation recorded three post-medieval/modern ditches. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for EDP Ltd (on behalf of Bloor Homes South West) on land at Holwell Lane, Cheddar, Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 4498 5380; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 A planning application for residential development of the site has been submitted. The results of the current evaluation will inform the decision on the need for (and scope of) any further archaeological mitigation at the site. The scope of this evaluation was defined in discussions with Steve Membery (Senior Historic Environment Officer, South West Heritage Trust), the archaeological advisor to Sedgemoor District Council (the local planning authority).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Steve Membery. The evaluation was also guided by *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4 The site is located on the north-western fringes of Cheddar. It encloses approximately 4ha and currently comprises four pasture fields divided by hedgerows and fences. The site is mainly flat, at 20m AOD.
- 1.5 The site is bounded along its eastern edge by the A371, along its western edge by the Axbridge–Cheddar Cycle Way (a disused railway embankment), along its southern edge by a residential plot, and along its northern edge by Holwell Lane. The site is surrounded to the north by agricultural fields, to the east and south by residential properties and associated gardens, and to the west by a sports field.
- 1.6 The solid geology of the site is mapped as mudstone and halite-stone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, which formed in the Triassic Period. This is overlain by deposits of head clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The proposed development site has been the previous subject of a desk-based archaeological and heritage assessment (EDP 2014), from which the following section is summarised.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

2.2 The only known evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site is a flint handaxe, found some 470m south of the site.

Roman (AD 43–AD 410)

2.3 Cheddar had a Roman precursor in the form of a villa or small settlement, which lay some 800m south-east of the proposed development site. A geophysical survey has also identified a potential Roman settlement south of Cheddar Reservoir, c. 2km south-west of the site.

2.4 There is little evidence for Roman activity in the immediate environs of the site, although a spread of Roman pottery has been discovered c. 635m south of the site and previous archaeological works some 750m south-east of the site recorded three Roman ditches.

Early medieval (AD 410–1066) and medieval (1066–1539)

2.5 No early medieval remains are known within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site.

2.6 One of the fields north of Holwell Lane contains extant ridge and furrow earthworks, and aerial photographic evidence suggests that the majority of the fields north of Holwell Lane once contained further ridge and furrow. Cropmarks indicative of a series of possible medieval enclosure boundaries have also been recorded c. 15m south-west of the site.



Post-medieval (1540–1800) and modern (1800–present)

- 2.7 Ninteenth-century cartographic sources depict the site as agricultural/pasture fields and the site probably formed part of the agricultural hinterland to Cheddar throughout the post-medieval and modern periods. The Cheddar Valley and Yatton Railway was established on an artificial embankment along the western site boundary in the 1860s; this is now a cycle path.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the trial trench evaluation were to provide information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and significance. This information will inform the decision on the need for (and scope of) any further archaeological mitigation at the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 10 trenches in the locations shown on Figure 2. All trenches were 30m in length with the exception of TR9, which was 15m in length. All trenches were 1.8m in width. The trenches were located to examine a representative sample of the site.
- 4.2 The following changes were made from the trench plan contained in the WSI (CA 2016): TR1 and TR3 were moved eastwards to avoid the disused railway embankment, and TR7 was moved slightly to the north to avoid an area of modern ground disturbance.
- 4.3 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*.
- 4.4 All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

- 4.5 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*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.6 The evaluation archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. CA will make arrangements with the Museum of Somerset for the deposition of the archive. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Figure 2 shows the recorded archaeological features in plan. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A.

General stratigraphy

- 5.2 The natural geological substrate comprised orange-brown sandy clay with frequent areas of stone, gravel and yellow-brown sandy silt. The natural substrate was exposed 0.4m–0.5m below present ground level (bpgl). It was sealed in all trenches by 0.2m–0.3m of sandy-silt subsoil, which was overlain in turn by 0.2m–0.25m of topsoil.
- 5.3 The western end of TR1 and the southern end of TR3 cut into the disused railway embankment. Here, the topsoil was sealed by 0.3m of embankment material, which comprised layers of redeposited natural and topsoil.
- 5.4 The only trenches containing archaeological features were TR1 and TR2. All of these features were cut through the subsoil layer and are considered to be post-medieval/modern in date.



Trench 1

- 5.5 North-west/south-east-aligned ditch 105 was 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep. It contained a single clayey silt fill (106), from which fragments of post-medieval/modern ceramic building material, burnt lime and iron fixings were recovered.

Trench 2

- 5.6 North-west/south-east-aligned ditch 205 was 1.1m wide and 0.32m deep. East/west-aligned ditch 203 was 1.1m wide and 0.4m deep. Both of these ditches contained single undated clayey silt fills (206 and 204, respectively).

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation recorded three ditches, all which were cut through the subsoil. One of these features contained post-medieval/modern artefacts, and all three ditches are likely to be of similar date.
- 6.2 No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified. This result is consistent with the findings of the DBA (EDP 2014).

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Martin Gillard, assisted by Jerry Austin. This report was written by Martin Gillard. The report illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

8. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>
Accessed 4 May 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Land at Holwell Lane, Cheddar, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

EDP 2014 *Land at Holwell Lane, Cheddar: Archaeological and Heritage Assessment* EDP
report **EDP1853_02e**

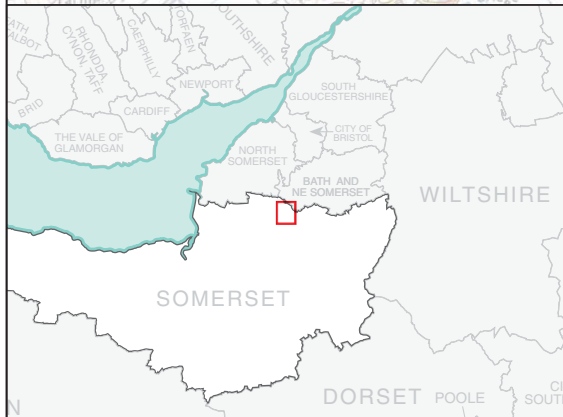
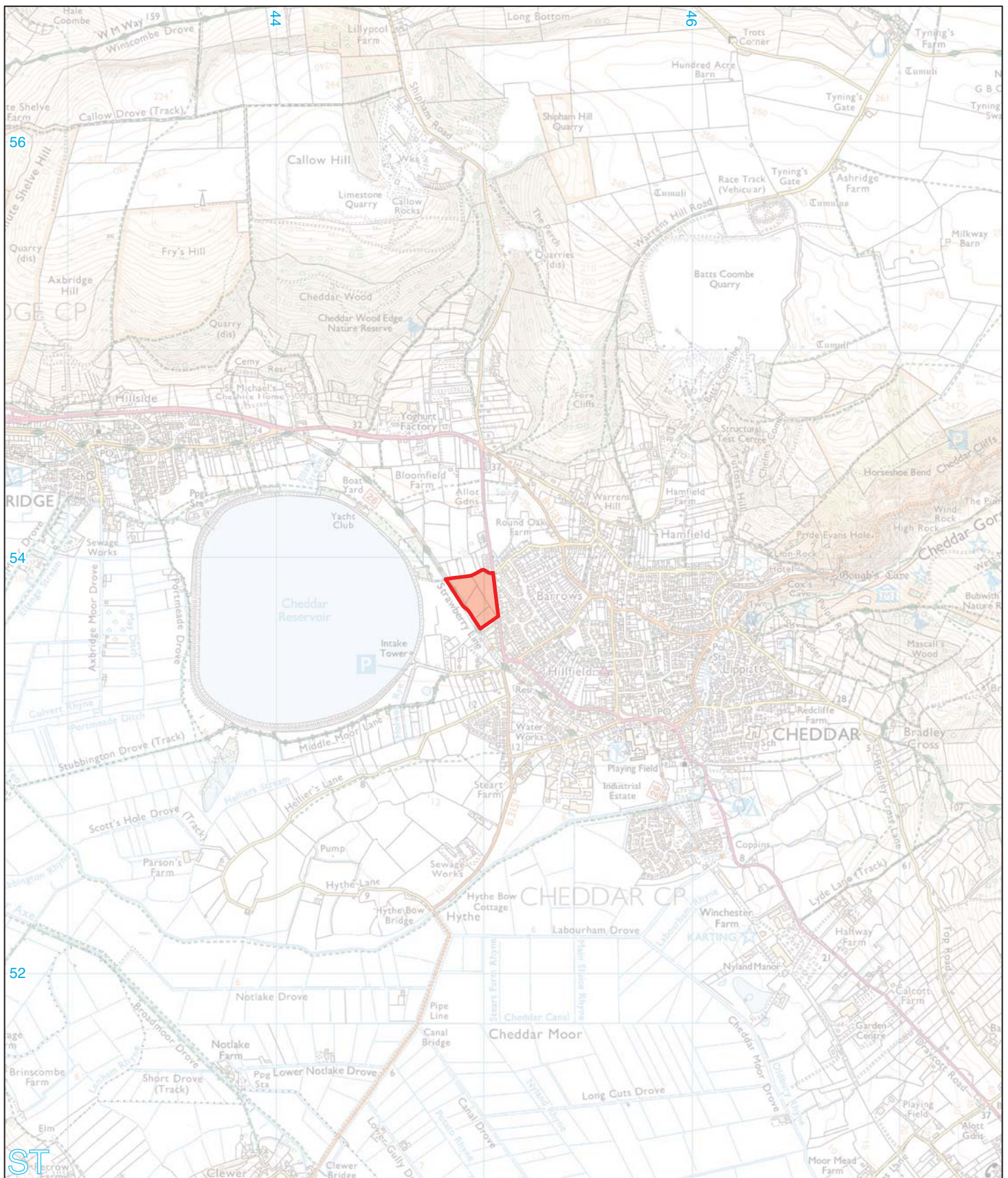


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench no.	Context no.	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	100	layer		railway embankment	mid brown soft clay silt (redeposited topsoil)			0.1
1	101	layer		railway embankment	red brown friable clay silt, 30% sub angular stone <100mm (redeposited natural)			0.2
1	102	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown soft clay silt			0.2
1	103	layer		subsoil	yellow brown friable clay silt			0.2
1	104	layer		natural	red brown friable sandy silt-clay, 70% sub angular to sub rounded stone <200mm			
1	105	cut		ditch	runs NW/SE; gently sloping sides and rounded base; cuts 103	>3	0.6	0.3
1	106	fill	105	fill of ditch	light brown soft clay silt, 20% sub rounded stone <100mm		0.6	0.3
2	200	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown soft clay silt			0.2
2	201	layer		subsoil	yellow brown friable clay silt			0.23
2	202	layer		natural	red brown friable sandy silt-clay, 70% sub angular to sub rounded stone <200mm; grey and yellow-brown silt pockets			
2	203	cut		ditch	runs E/W; gently sloping sides and rounded base; cuts 201	>2	1.1	0.4
2	204	fill	203	fill of ditch	grey brown clay silt		1.1	0.4
2	205	cut		ditch	runs NW/SE; concave sides and base; cuts 201	>3	1.1	0.32
2	206	fill	205	fill of ditch	grey brown clay silt		1.1	0.32
3	300	layer		railway embankment	mid brown friable clay silt (redeposited topsoil)			0.1
3	301	layer		railway embankment	grey red compact silt clay, 40% sub angular stone <100mm (redeposited subsoil)			0.2
3	302	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown soft clay silt			0.2
3	303	layer		subsoil	yellow brown friable clay silt			0.3
3	304	cut		natural	red brown friable sandy silt-clay, 70% sub angular to sub rounded stone <200mm			
4	400	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown soft clay silt			0.2
4	401	layer		subsoil	yellow brown friable clay silt			0.3
4	402	layer		natural	red brown friable sandy silt-clay, 70% sub angular to sub rounded stone <200mm			
5	500	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown soft clay silt			0.2
5	501	layer		subsoil	yellow brown friable clay silt			0.3
5	502	layer		natural	red brown friable sandy silt-clay, 70% sub angular to sub rounded stone <200mm; grey and yellow-brown silt pockets			
6	600	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown soft clay silt			0.25
6	601	layer		subsoil	yellow brown friable clay silt			0.25
6	602	layer		natural	red brown friable sandy silt-clay, 70% sub angular to sub rounded stone <200mm; grey and yellow-brown silt pockets			
7	700	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown soft clay silt			0.25
7	701	layer		subsoil	yellow brown friable clay silt			0.25
7	702	layer		natural	red brown friable sandy silt-clay, 70% sub angular to sub rounded stone <200mm; grey and yellow-brown silt pockets			
8	800	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown soft clay silt			0.25
8	801	layer		subsoil	yellow brown friable clay silt			0.25
8	802	layer		natural	red brown friable sandy silt-clay, 70% sub angular to sub rounded stone <200mm			
9	900	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown soft clay silt			0.2
9	901	layer		subsoil	yellow brown friable clay silt			0.25
9	902	layer		natural	red brown friable sandy silt-clay, 70% sub angular to sub rounded stone <200mm; grey and yellow-brown silt pockets			
10	1000	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown soft clay silt			0.2
10	1001	layer		subsoil	yellow brown friable clay silt			0.3
10	1002	layer		natural	red brown friable sandy silt-clay, 70% sub angular to sub rounded stone <200mm			

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Holwell Lane, Cheddar, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2016 on land south of Holwell Lane, Cheddar, Somerset. A total of 10 trenches was excavated. The evaluation recorded three post-medieval/modern ditches. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.	
Project dates	16–18 May 2016	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (EDP 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Holwell Lane, Cheddar, Somerset	
Study area (m ² /ha)	4ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 4498 5380	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Martin Gillard	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	The Museum of Somerset	Site recording forms
Digital	The Museum of Somerset	Digital photos, database
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2016 <i>Land at Holwell Lane, Cheddar, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report 16338		



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

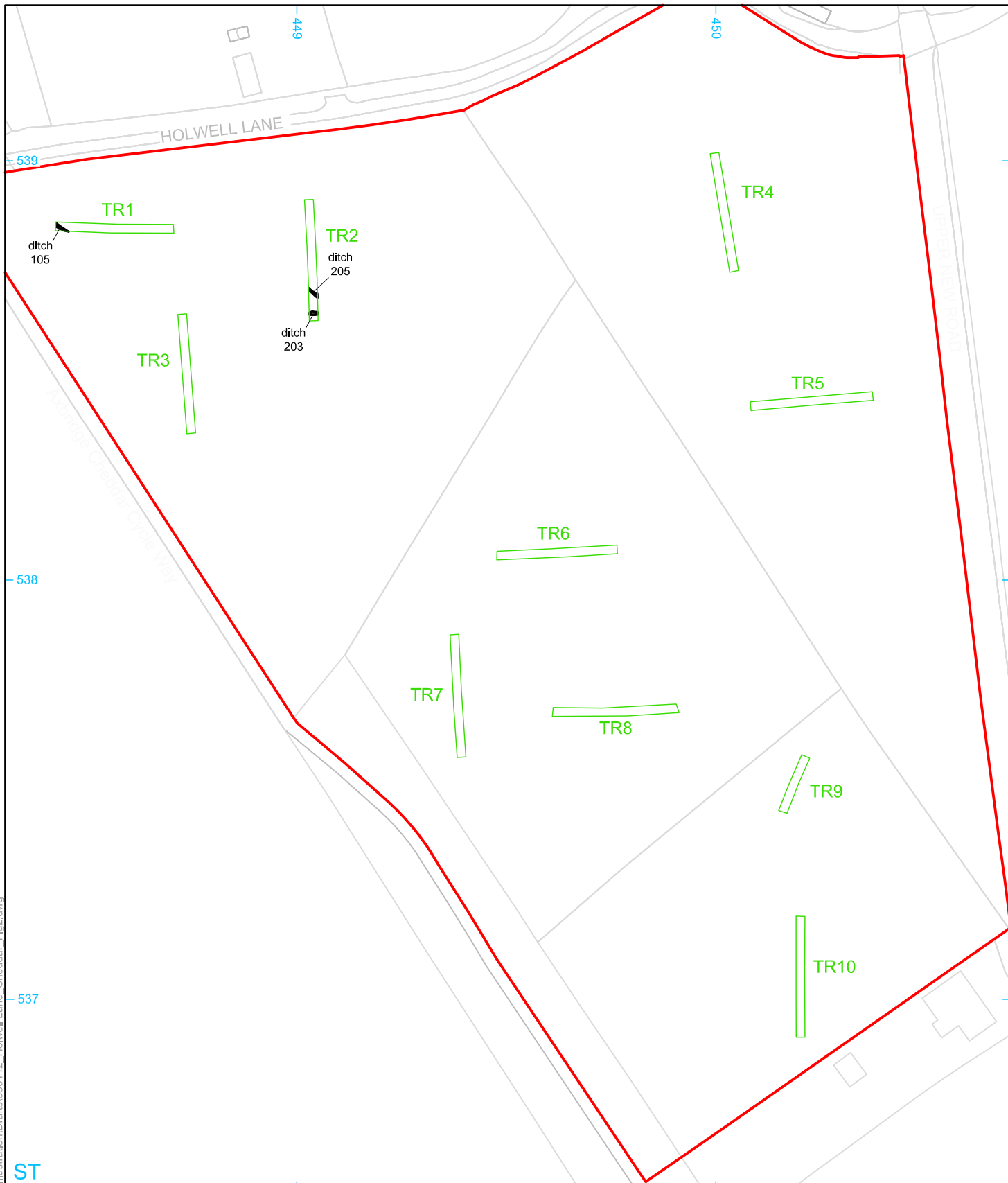
PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Holwell Lane, Cheddar, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

0 1km

Reproduced from the 2015 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

DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	880112	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	31-05-2016	
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Land at Holwell Lane, Cheddar, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing evaluation trenches and archaeological features

DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	880112	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	20/06/2016	2
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:1250	

P:\880112 Land at Holwell Lane, Cheddar, Somerset - EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\880112_Holwell Lane_Cheddar_Fig2.dwg

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660