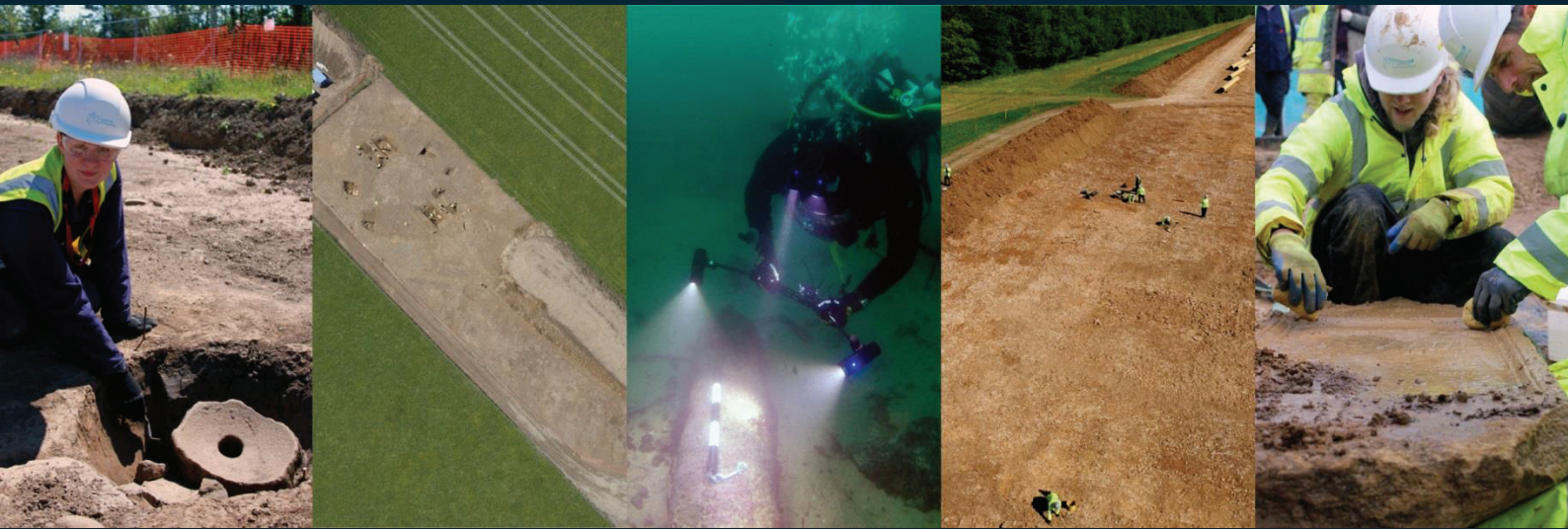


Down Ampney Churchyard Extension Down Ampney Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Down Ampney PCC

CA Project: 5657
CA Report: 16089

February 2016



Down Ampney Churchyard Extension
Down Ampney
Gloucestershire

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Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	24 February 2016	Greg Crees	Ian Barnes	Internal review	Client comment	Cliff Bateman

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Down Ampney Churchyard Extension
Location:	Down Ampney, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SU 0991 9650
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	3-4 December 2015
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code:	DAMP15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2015 on the proposed Down Ampney churchyard extension, Down Ampney, Gloucestershire. A total of six trenches were excavated.

Evidence of a possible quarry pit and an undated pit were recorded in the western trenches. Evidence of general ground disturbances was identified throughout the majority of the site.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for the Down Ampney PCC at the site of the proposed Down Ampney churchyard extension, Down Ampney, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SU 0991 9650; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to facilitate the change of use of the application site to a churchyard extension. Charles Parry (Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council), the archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council (CDC), recommended that such an application be supported by a programme of archaeological work.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a 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* (ClfA 2014), 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 proposed development area is approximately 0.1ha in extent, and comprises a grassed area. It was bounded to the north by the existing churchyard, the east by the extension of Chaltham Way, the south by a residence and the west by an open field. The site lies at approximately 87m AOD, and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone of the Jurassic Period. Superficial deposits of Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member, Upper Facet - Sand and Gravel of the Quaternary Period are also noted (BGS 2015). The natural substrate identified in all excavated trenches comprised sandy gravel.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has not been subject to archaeological desk-based assessment, though areas to the north (i.e. Down Ampney Estate, Scott Wilson 2008) have been. As

such, the following is a summary of nearby pertinent archaeological evidence surrounding the site.

- 2.2 Three Scheduled Monuments are located to the south of the site. A possible Neolithic causewayed enclosure (Historic England (HE) ref. no. 1003446) is located approximately 400m south of the site. Further to the south, a Roman settlement (consisting of enclosures, field boundaries, pits and a trackway seen as cropmarks) along with a possible Roman villa (HE ref. no. 1004689 and 1004690) have been identified.
- 2.3 Several phases of archaeological trial trenching of land at the Down Ampney Estate have been undertaken (CA 2004; 2009; 2013), c.1km to the north of the site. The evaluations identified prehistoric activity from limited, dispersed, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts across the site. No firm evidence was encountered for actual settlement foci pre-dating the Iron Age. A series of shallow linear features suggested the presence of a medieval field system (CA 2009).
- 2.4 The Church of All Saints itself, lying within the land parcel directly to the northwest of the site, was consecrated in the mid-13th century, and retains structural elements dating to the 15th, 16th and 19th centuries. Down Ampney House, a detached hall house built in the late 15th or early 16th century on the site of a 13th century house, is situated c.50m to the north-west of the current site (adjacent to the church). Remains of a demolished post-medieval or modern stone building are present adjacent to the north-eastern corner of the site. Possible medieval or later gravel pits identified from cropmarks on air photographs are noted to the north and west of Down Ampney.
- 2.5 A World War Two military airfield at Down Ampney c.1km to the east opened in 1944, was active to 1946 and closed in 1947. Remains of military buildings associated with the airfield are situated in woodland nearby, including three air raid shelters and a series of concrete platforms close to Down Ampney House.

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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable CDC 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 two trenches and four test pits in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2): the trenches were 10m long by 1.5m wide and the test pits were 1.5m by 1.5m. Due to the presence of services, it was agreed with Charles Parry that trenches could be located outside of the proposed site if required: this was necessary in the case of Trench 2. 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*: 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 Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Corinium 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 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and retrieved artefacts are to be found in Appendix A and B respectively.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate, consisting of sandy gravel, was exposed in all trenches and test pits at a depth varying between c. 0.48 – 1.3m below the present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by patches of silty clay subsoil, 0.1 – 0.25m in thickness. Subsoil was not present in Trenches 3 and 4: extensive modern disturbances were noted to truncate the natural substrate surface. In all trenches, horizons of made ground of between 0.1 – 0.9m in thickness were present: these variously overlay natural substrate, subsoil and/or modern disturbances. Made ground horizons were in turn sealed by 0.1 – 0.3m thick of modern topsoil.
- 5.3 All features recorded within Trenches 3-5 were modern. An irregular/sub-circular feature in Trench 6 proved to be natural rooting. All artefacts recovered originated from modern features, and are summarised in Appendix B.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.4 Pit 105 was identified in the northern half of Trench 1 (Fig. 3, section AA and BB). It appeared to be sealed below subsoil 102 although the horizon boundary was not clear due to disturbance by rooting. It was broadly square in plan and it measured approximately 0.8m in width, 0.5m in length and was 0.19m in depth. It contained a single undated, clayey silt fill (104).

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.5 Pit 213 was identified in the northern half of Trench 2, and was cut by modern pit 211 which was in turn sealed below subsoil 203 (Fig. 4, section CC). It extended beyond the trench limits of excavation, measuring at least 1.5m in width, 3.25m in length and 1.05m in depth. It contained a single undated, stony, homogenous sandy silt fill (212). All other feature identified within this trench were modern.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from three, modern deposits. The recovered material dates to the medieval and post-medieval/modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Pottery fabric codes used for recording and given in parenthesis in the report text correspond, where possible, to the Cirencester type series as defined by Ireland (1998).

Pottery

6.2 *Medieval*

An unfeathered bodysherd (14g) of Minety ware (F200) represents the only medieval pottery recovered from the site (residual in fill 404 of feature 405). It is in moderate to good condition, in terms of edge abrasion and surface preservation. This type of pottery was produced at or near Minety in north Wiltshire during the 12th to 15th centuries (Ireland 1998, 104).

Post-medieval/modern

6.3 Pottery from this date range totals three sherds (16g) from fill 404 of feature 405 and fill 409 of feature 407. The sherds are small but unabraded. Represented fabrics are: transfer-printed refined whiteware (F214) of late 18th to 19th century date; and flowerpot (FLOW), which dates to the 19th and 20th centuries.

Ceramic building material

6.4 Two fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material, one of which is identifiable as brick, were retrieved from fill 208 of feature 209.

Other finds

Glass

6.5 Fill 404 of feature 405 produced two fragments of natural-coloured (blue-green) glass, deriving from vessels of modern date.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The evaluation found limited activity on site that was not obviously of modern origin. Two undated pits lying along the western extent of the application site can only be

characterised as being pre-modern. A possible quarry pit was identified slightly to the western of the site boundary.

- 7.2 Significant modern disturbance was noted throughout the application site. A plausible explanation is activities linked to the World War II military airfield, c. 1km to the west. Associated military buildings are known within woodland surrounding Down Ampney House, directly to the north. A demolished stone building present adjacent to the north-east corner of the site demonstrates other localised modern disturbance which could have also generated some of the deposits recorded.
- 7.3 The results of the evaluation therefore suggest that it is unlikely that significant pre 20th century archaeological remains exist within the site, or if such remains are present there is evidence to suggest that they will have been subject to truncation. There is no clear evidence of defined World War II remains, though remnants of such assets cannot be excluded.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Greg Crees, assisted by Dani Adams. The report was written by Dan Sausins and Greg Crees. The 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 Ian Barnes.

10. REFERENCES

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Report No. **13414**

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Wilkinson, D. and McWhirr, A. 1998 *Cirencester Anglo-Saxon Church and Medieval Abbey*.
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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 grey brown silty clay	10	1.5	0.21	
1	101	Layer		Made ground	Mid dark grey brown clay silt with moderate limestone inclusions	10	1.5	0.11	
1	102	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay	10	1.5	0.16	
1	103	Layer		Natural	Mid orange brown sandy gravel	10	1.5	>0.1	
1	104	Fill	105	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown clayey silt	>0.8	0.54	0.19	
1	105	Cut		Pit	Square/Sub-circular pit with rounded corners and steep/vertical sides	>0.8	0.54	0.19	
1	106	Deposit		Natural	Mid grey brown gravel	10	1.5	<0.05	
1	Void								
1	108	Layer		Made ground	Mid greyish yellow brown clay silt with gravel	10	1.5	0.11	
1	109	Fill		Fill of modern pit	Mid greyish yellow brown clay silt with gravel	NE	NE	NE	
1	110	Cut		Modern pit		NE	NE	NE	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	10	1.5	0.1	
2	201	Layer		Made ground	Mid dark grey brown clay silt with moderate limestone inclusions	10	1.5	0.2-0.3	
2	202	Layer		Made ground	Mid dark grey brown clay silt with moderate limestone inclusions	10	1.5	0.16	
2	203	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay	10	1.5	0.25-0.3	
2	204	Layer		Natural	Mid orange brown sandy gravel	10	1.5	>0.1	
2	205	Fill	209	Fill of modern pit	Dark black sandy silt	>4.5	>1	0.4-0.65	
2	206	Fill	209	Fill of modern pit	Yellow grey sand	>4.5	>1	0.1	
2	207	Fill	209	Fill of modern pit	Dark black sandy silt	>4.5	>1	>0.3	
2	208	Fill	209	Fill of modern pit	Mixed light brown grey sandy silt	>4.5	>1	>1.06	Post-medieval
2	209	Cut		Modern pit		>4.5	>1	>1.6	
2	210	Fill	210	Fill of modern pit	Mixed grey brown sandy silt				
2	211	Cut		Modern pit					
2	212	Fill	213	Fill of pit	Yellow brown stoney silt sand	>3.25	>1.5	>1.05	
2	213	Cut		Pit	Steep sided pit, only partially seen within the trench				
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	10	1.5	0.1	
3	301	Layer		Made ground	Mid dark grey brown clay silt with moderate limestone inclusions	10	1.5	0.2-0.3	
3	302	Fill	312	Fill of modern pit	Mixed sandy silt				
3	303	Fill	312	Fill of modern pit	Dark black/brown sandy silt				
3	304	Fill	312	Fill of modern pit	Yellow grey sand				
3	305	Fill	312	Fill of modern pit	Dark black/brown sandy silt				
3	306	Fill	312	Fill of modern pit	Yellow grey sand				
3	307	Fill	308	Fill of modern pit	Mixed orange brown sandy silt	>1.7	>0.8	0.65	

3	308	Cut		Modern pit		>1.7	>0.8	0.65	
3	309	Fill	310	Fill of modern pit	Highly mixed yellow/grey sandy silt	>1	>1.3	0.75	
3	310	Cut		Modern pit	Steep sided with rounded base	>1	>1.3	0.75	
3	311	Void							
3	312	Cut		Modern pit	Moderate sided with rounded base		>0.8	>1	
3	313	Fill	308	Fill of modern pit	Mixed orange brown sandy silt	>1.7	>0.8	0.65	
3	314	Layer		Natural	Mid orange brown sandy gravel	10	1.5	>0.1	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay			0.2	
4	401	Layer		Made ground	Mid dark yellow brown gravelly silt sand			0.45	
4	402	Layer		Lense within made ground	High frequency charcoal	>0.6	>0.3	0.07	
4	403	Deposit/Fill	405	Made ground/slumped deposit	Grey brown stoney silt	>0.8	>0.6	0.14	
4	404	Fill	405	Fill of modern pit	Mid-dark yellow grey brown sand silt			>0.45	C19-C20
4	405	Cut		Modern pit	Vertical sided with shallow step on south side			>0.45	
4	406	Fill	407	Fill of modern pit	Mid-dark yellow grey brown sand silt			0.4	
4	407	Cut		Modern Pit	Rounded/Irregular ? Steep sided			0.4	
4	408	Layer		Natural	Mid orange brown sandy gravel				
4	409	Fill	407	Cleaning layer, top of pit 407	Same as 406				C19-C20
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay			0.3	
5	501	Layer		Made ground	Mid dark yellow brown gravelly silt sand; multiple deposits			0.7	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow sandy gravel				
5	503	Fill	504	Fill of modern pit	Mid-dark yellow grey brown sand silt	>1.7	>1.2	>0.6	
5	504	Cut		Modern Pit	One edge exposed, steep sided	>1.7	>1.2	>0.6	
5	505	Layer		Possible subsoil	Mid yellow brown sandy silt, root affected			0.18	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clayey silt			0.2	
6	601	Layer		Made ground	Mid dark grey brown gravelly clay silt			0.19	
6	602	Layer		Subsoil	Slightly greyish brown clay silt, root affected			0.1	
6	603	Layer		Natural	Mid orange brown sandy gravel				
6	604	Deposit		Rooting	Mid-dark brown sandy silt, sub-circular/irregular side and base	0.35m di		0.1	

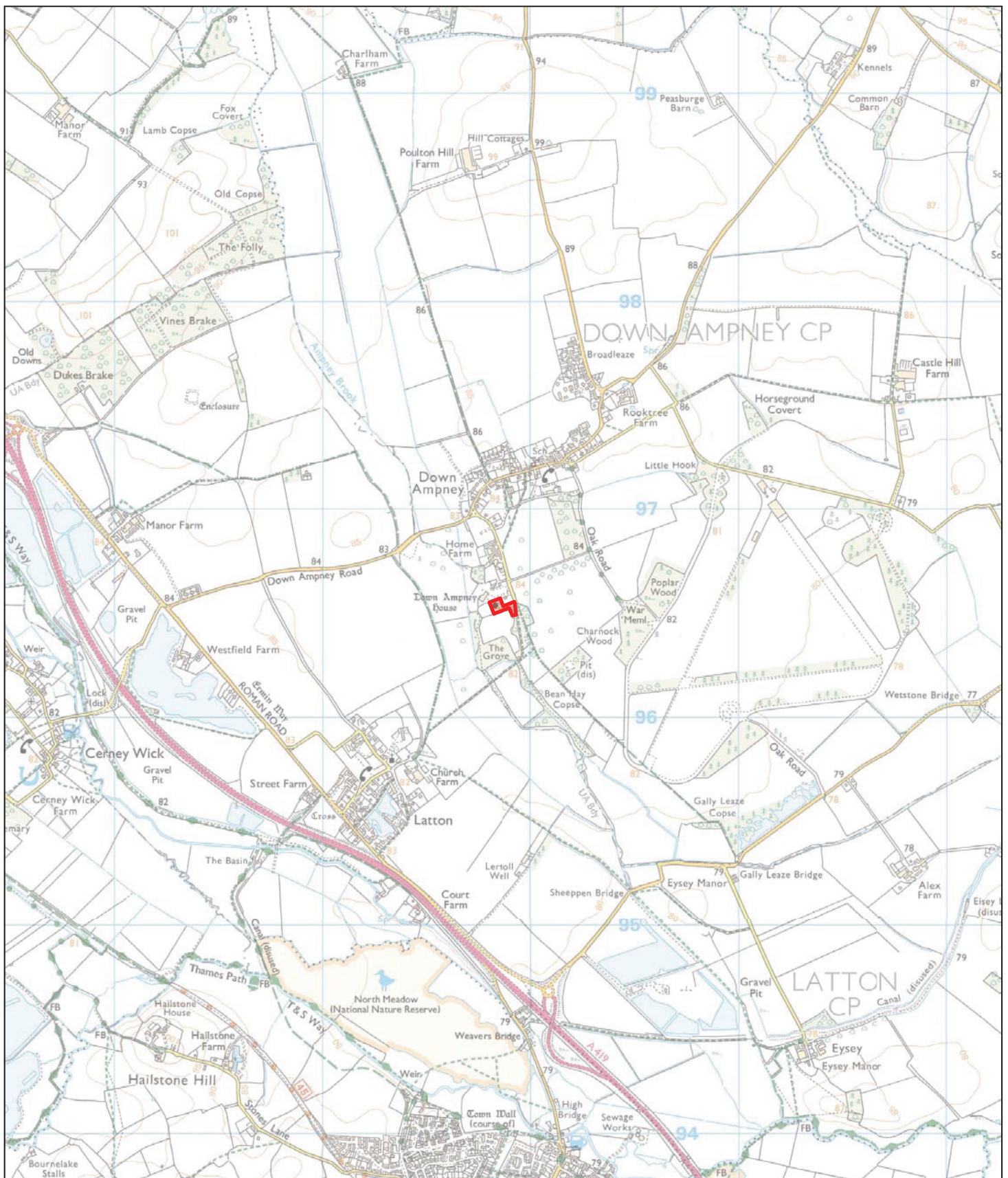
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
208	Post-medieval ceramic building material Industrial waste	Brick, fragment		2	304	Post-medieval
				1	<1	
404	Medieval pottery Post-medieval/modern pottery Modern pottery Modern glass	Minety ware Transfer-printed refined whiteware Flowerpot Vessel	F200 F214 FLOW FLOW	1	14	C19-C20
				1	3	
				1	5	
				2	9	
409	Modern pottery	Flowerpot	FLOW	1	8	C19-C20

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Down Ampney Churchyard Extension, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2015 on the proposed Down Ampney churchyard extension, Down Ampney, Gloucestershire. Six trenches were excavated. At the western extent of the site, evidence of a possible quarry pit and an undated pit were recorded. Evidence of general ground disturbances were identified over the majority of the site.	
Project dates	3-4 December 2015	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Down Ampney churchyard, Down Ampney, Gloucestershire	
Study area	0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	SU 0991 9650	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Greg Crees	
MONUMENT TYPE		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Corinium Museum	Pot sherd
Paper	Corinium Museum	Pro-forma recording sheets
Digital	Corinium Museum	Raw survey data, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Down Ampney Churchyard Extension, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16089		



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PROJECT TITLE

Down Ampney Churchyard Extension
 Down Ampney, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

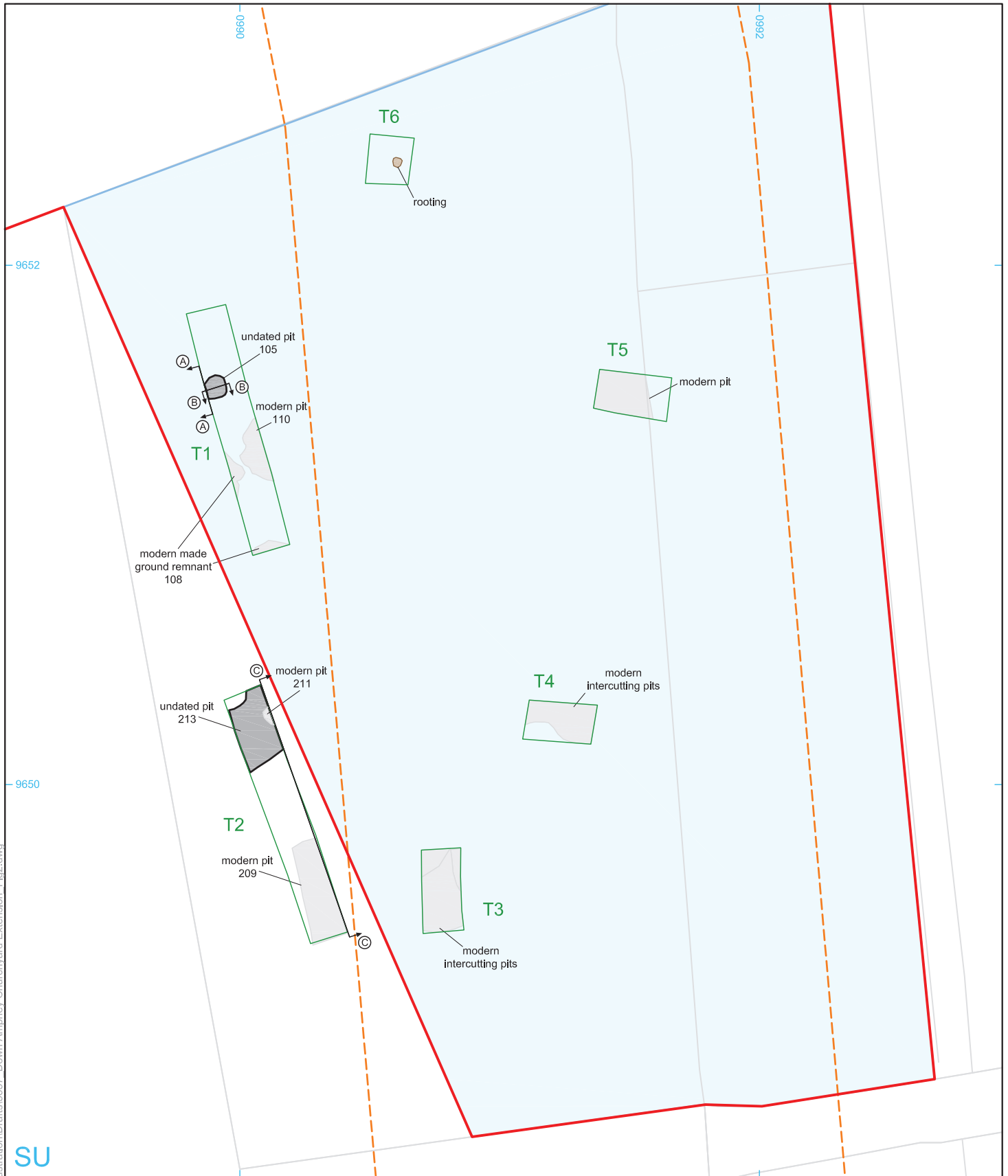


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FIGURE NO.

1



SU

- site boundary
- proposed burial ground
- OH cable with 9m buffer
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern feature
- bioturbation



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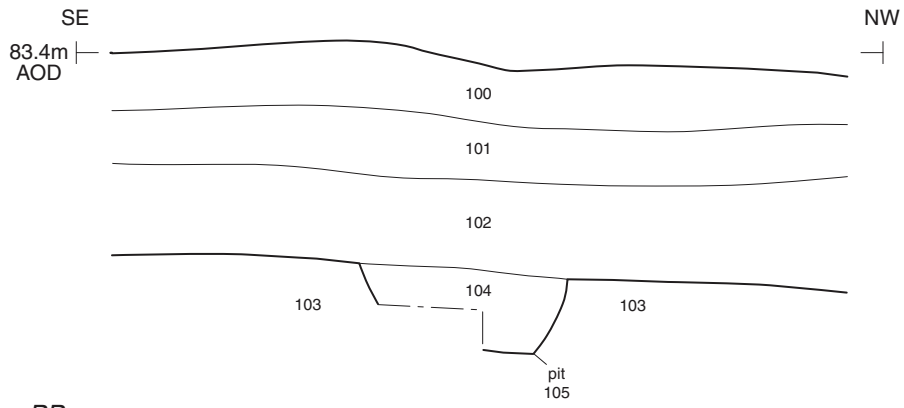
FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing
archaeological features

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 CHECKED BY D J B REVISION 01
 DATE 07/12/2015 SCALE@A4 1:200

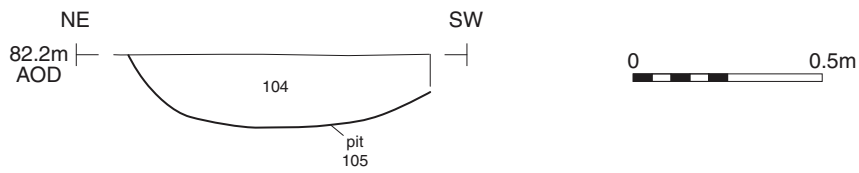
FIGURE NO.

2

Section AA



Section BB



Pit [105], looking south-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Down Ampney Churchyard Extension
 Down Ampney, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

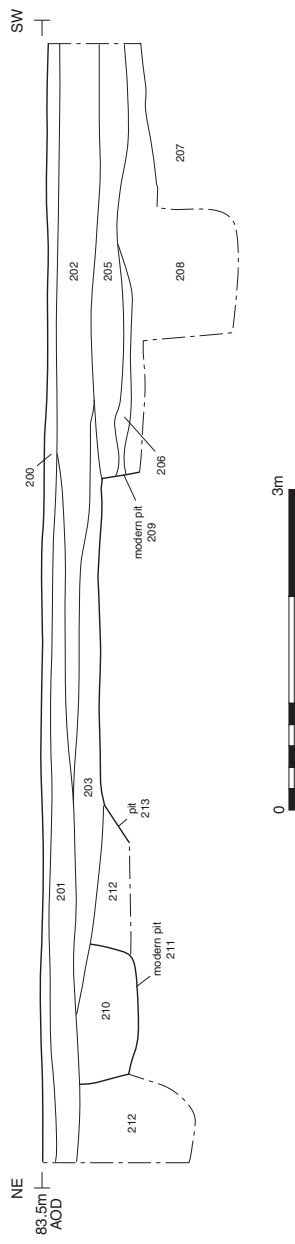
Trench 1: sections and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

3

Section CC



Trench 2 looking south-east; undated pit [213] in foreground, modern pit [209] to rear. (1m scale)



Trench 4, modern pits [405] & [407], looking west. (1m scales)

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