

Hangars 18-20 Colerne, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Lanpro Services

on behalf of
Offices and Industrial

CA Project: 5965
CA Report: 16388

July 2016



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SUMMARY

Project Name: Hangars 18-20
Location: Colerne, Wiltshire
NGR: ST 8150 7140
Type: Evaluation
Date: 13 July 2016
Planning Reference: 16/01972/OUT
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Devizes Museum
Site Code: HANG 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2016 at Hangars 18-20, Colerne, Wiltshire. Three trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features were identified or pre-modern finds recovered. The trenches demonstrated that a possible Bronze Age barrow noted in the 1920s was in all likelihood a geological feature.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Lanpro Services on behalf of Offices and Industrial at Hangars 18-20, Colerne, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 8150 7140; Fig. 1). A planning application has been submitted to Wiltshire Council (WC; Ref: 16/01972/OUT) for residential led mixed use development of the site. Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, the County Archaeologist for WC objected to the application as no supporting information with regards to the historic environment has been submitted and indicated that an archaeological trial trench evaluation (and historic buildings assessment) should be undertaken prior to the determination of the application.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for archaeological evaluation produced by Lanpro Services (2016) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area covers approximately 6.8ha, and comprises three large L type hangars constructed at the beginning of the Second World War and surrounding grassland. The site lies at approximately 166m AOD on relatively level ground although Trenches 2 and 3 were partially located on a low rise.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Chalfield Oolite Formation: Limestone, Ooidal, sedimentary sedrock of the Jurassic Period (BGS 2016). No superficial deposits are recorded. The underlying bedrock geology of limestone brash was encountered in all three trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 No formal desk-based assessment was undertaken for the site, although the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted and HER data obtained for the site and a surrounding 1km search area (Lanpro 2016).



- 2.2 A possible Bronze Age barrow was recorded within the northern part of the site (HER MWI2349). A low tumulus was noted in this location in the 1920s and was believed to have been flattened during the construction of Colerne Airfield. No other prehistoric remains are recorded within the vicinity of the site on the Wiltshire HER (Lanpro 2016).
- 2.3 The Fosse Way Roman road passes approximately 1.5km to the west of the site along the western edge of Colerne Airfield. A Roman villa was excavated in 1854 c. 400m to the north of the site within the current airfield (HER MWI2305). The villa was found to comprise at least 12 rooms with tessellated floors and a hypocaust (Lanpro 2016).
- 2.4 The site falls within the former extent of RAF Colerne (HER MWI2338) although no individual features relating to the airfield are recorded within the site on the HER (Lanpro 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable WC 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 three trenches, each measuring 25m in length and 1.6m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The location of Trench 3 was altered slightly in the field to avoid buried services and to further investigate features of possible archaeological significance identified in 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* and no deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The archive will be deposited with Devizes Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

- 5.2 The natural substrate 102 comprised angular limestone brash with patches of mid brown silty clay. This was overlain by a mid-brown orange clay silt subsoil 101 in the northernmost 9.5m of the trench only; no subsoil was present in the rest of the trench. The subsoil, where present was sealed by topsoil 100 from which a fragment of modern brick was recovered but not retained. No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

- 5.4 The natural substrate 202 comprised angular limestone brash in the south-western 15m of the trench and changed to a mid brown silty clay with occasional irregular

abraded stones in the north-eastern 10m of the trench. The natural substrate was sealed by a mid brown orange clay silt subsoil 201 which was in turn sealed by topsoil 200. No finds were recovered from this trench.

- 5.5 A possible ditch towards the centre of the trench was investigated but was shown to be a geological feature. The change in geology in the north-eastern part of the trench, which correlated to a low rise in the ground, was investigated by means of a small machine dug sondage and was proven to be of geological origin.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

- 5.5 The natural substrate, 302, comprised limestone brash with occasional larger abraded limestone and pockets of clay and was sealed by a mid brown orange clay silt subsoil 301 which in turn was sealed by the existing topsoil 300. No artefactual material was recovered from this trench.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Despite visual scanning of the excavated spoil, the only artefactual material recovered was a single fragment of modern brick from the topsoil 100 in Trench 1. This was not retained.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation uncovered no archaeological evidence relating to the barrow noted in the 1920s. It is possible that any such barrow may have been flattened during the construction of the airfield, however the only evidence for any modern truncation was the absence of subsoil in the southernmost 15m of Trench 1. There was no evidence for modern truncation in Trenches 2 and 3 where the subsoil survived throughout the entirety of both trenches. In addition, had there been modern disturbance within the trenches, then a significant amount of modern debris may have been expected to be visible within the excavated spoil, but this was not the case.

- 7.2 It is more likely therefore that what was interpreted as a barrow in the 1920s may in fact have been a geological feature. As mentioned above both Trenches 2 and 3

were partially located on a low rise, the location of which approximately correlates to the location of the postulated barrow on the Wiltshire HER entry. A consistent sequence of the natural substrate being sealed by the subsoil and then the topsoil was observed throughout both trenches with no evidence for any possible mound material being identified.

- 7.3 The total lack of recovered artefactual material pre-dating the modern period suggests a low likelihood for any features or deposits of archaeological significance in the immediate vicinity.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard, assisted by Michael Joyce. The report was written by Tim Havard. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Hartley. The archive has been compiled by Tim Havard, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 14 July 2016

Lanpro Services 2016 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation: Hangars 18-20, Colerne, Wiltshire.*

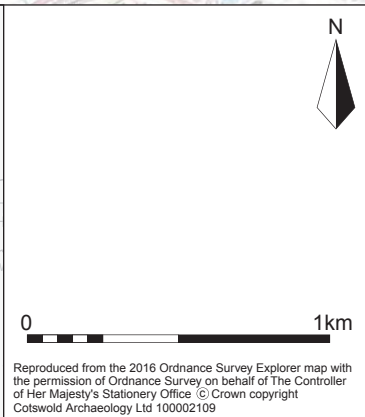
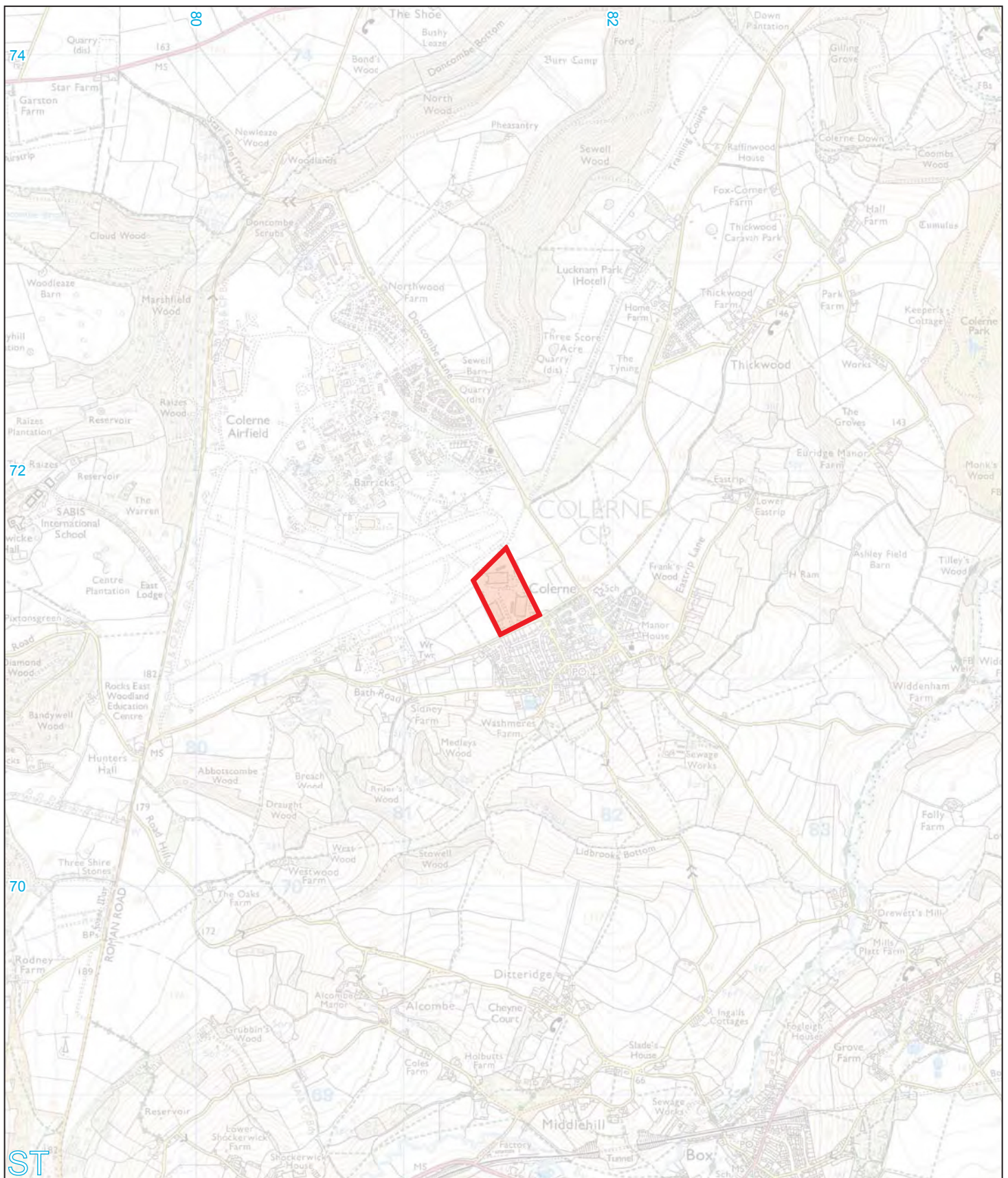


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		topsoil	mid orange brown clay silt with frequent small stone flecking	>25	>1.6	0.3
1	101	Layer		subsoil	mid brown orange silty clay mixed with limestone brash	>9.5	>1.6	0.08
1	102	Layer		natural substrate	80% light grey white angular limestone brash, 20% mid brown silty clay	>12	>1.6	>0.1
2	200	Layer		topsoil	as 100	>25	>1.6	0.32
2	201	Layer		subsoil	as 101	>25	>1.6	0.1
2	202	Layer		natural substrate	south-western 15m as 102, north-eastern 10m mid brown silty clay with occasional irregular abraded stone	>25	>1.6	>0.3
3	300	Layer		topsoil	as 100	>25	>1.6	0.32
3	301	Layer		subsoil	as 101	>25	>1.6	0.1
3	302	Layer		natural substrate	as 102 but with occasional larger irregular abraded stone and inclusions and pockets of mid brown clay	>25	>16	>0.1

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Hangars 18-20, Colerne, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2016 at Hangars 18-20, Colerne, Wiltshire. Three trenches were excavated. No archaeological features were identified or pre-modern finds recovered. The trenches demonstrated that a possible Bronze Age barrow noted in the 1920s was in all likelihood a geological feature.	
Project dates	13 July 2016	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Hangars 18-20, Colerne, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	6.8ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 8150 7140	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Lanpro Services	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Devizes Museum	Trench recording sheets, photographic register
Digital	Devizes Museum	Digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Hangars 18-20, Colerne, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16388		



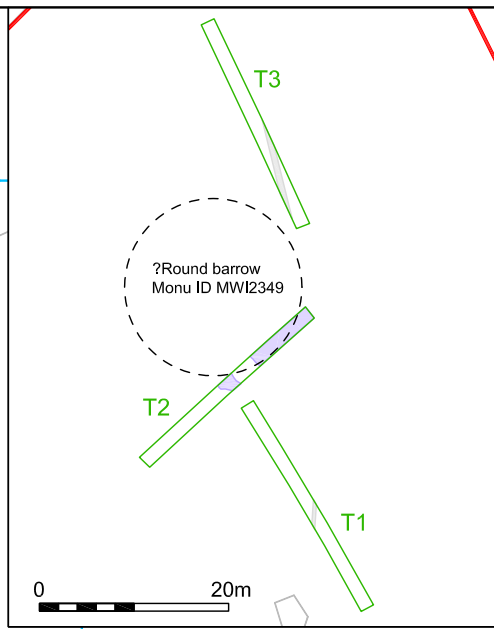
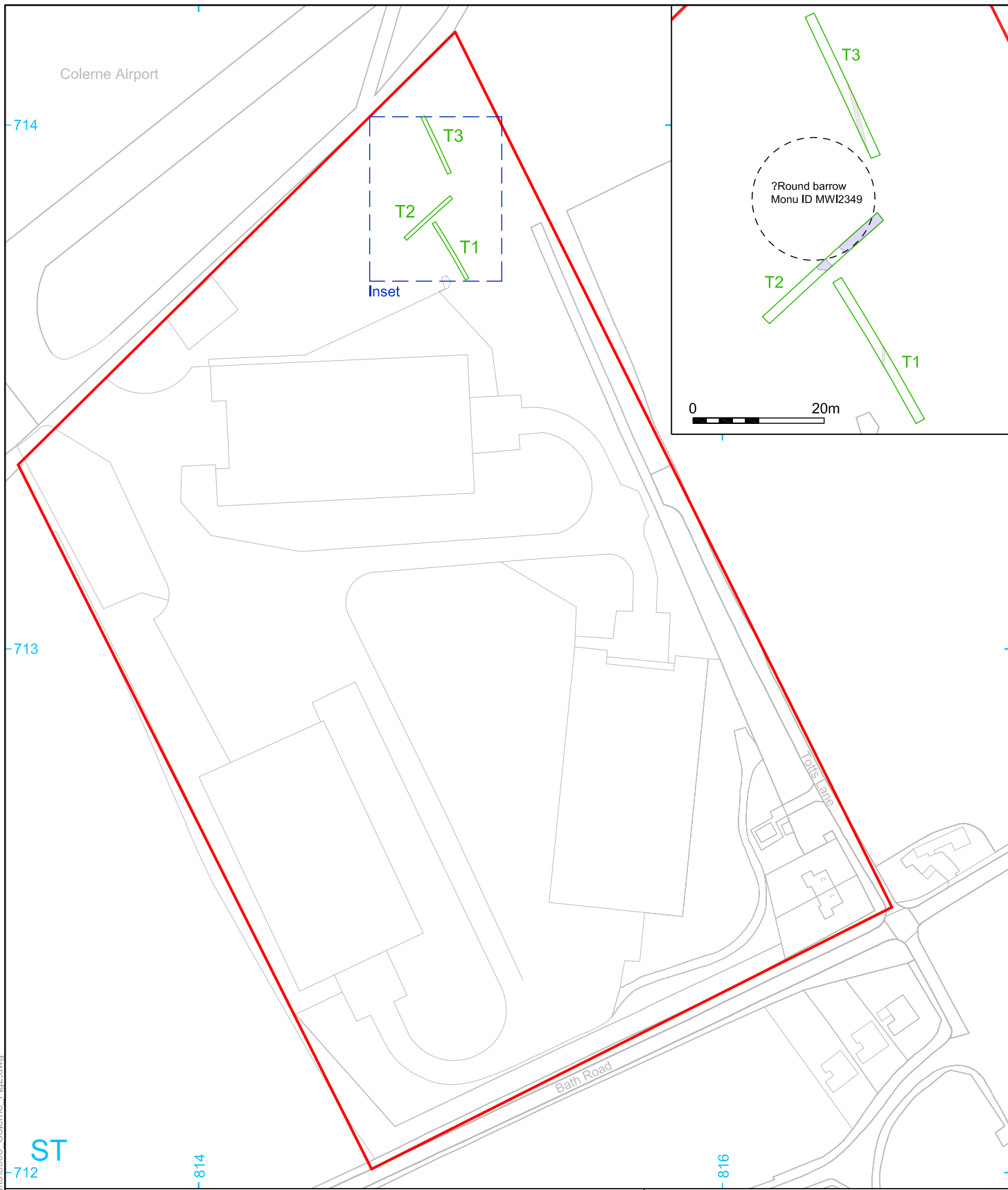

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PROJECT TITLE
 Hangars 18 to 20, Colerne, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	5965	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	18-07-2016	
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- geological feature
- modern



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PROJECT TITLE
Hangars 18 to 20, Colerne, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan



DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	5965	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	18/07/2016	2
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A3	1:2000 & 1:800	

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