

Larks Lane Iron Acton South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Green Frog Energy Ltd

CA Project: 5974
CA Report: 16421

August 2016



Larks Lane Iron Acton South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5974
CA Report: 16421



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	11 August 2016	Alex Thomson	Richard Young	Internal review	Client comment	Ian Barnes

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.....	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY	5
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	5
6. THE FINDS	6
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE	7
8. DISCUSSION.....	7
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	7
10. REFERENCES.....	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	9
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	10
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	11

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:750)
- Fig. 3 Trench 12: plan, section and photograph (1:200 and 1:20)



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Larks Lane
Location:	Iron Acton, South Gloucestershire
NGR:	ST 6694 8530
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	25-26 July 2016
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Bristol Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code:	LLI 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2016 at Larks Lane, Iron Acton, South Gloucestershire. A total of 12 trenches were excavated.

An undated north-east/south-west aligned ditch was identified in the western area of the site, running parallel to Larks Lane and which may relate to earlier land division.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Green Frog Energy Ltd. at Larks Lane, Iron Acton, South Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: ST 6694 8530; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany an application for planning consent to South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) for development of a small scale gas fuelled capacity mechanism plant.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a recommendation for archaeological evaluation made by David Haigh, the former archaeological advisor to SGC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* produced by CA (2016) and approved by Paul Driscoll, Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer, SGC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Paul Driscoll, including a site visit on 26 July 2016.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is 1.6ha in extent, and comprises agricultural land used for pastoral grazing. It is bounded to the north, east and south by agricultural land, and to the west by an equestrian centre adjacent to Larks Lane. The site lies at approximately 200m AOD, with the ground dropping away to the south and east.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group - mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Triassic era (BGS 2016). During fieldwork, natural geological substrate of mudstone and clay was observed in all trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 No known archaeological remains or heritage assets are recorded within the site on the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER). The site has been depicted as pastoral land since the 1840s Tithe Map and 1873 Ordnance Survey (OS) first edition map. A number of heritage assets are recorded within the wider area.

- 2.2 Identified approximately 3km to the north of the site is an univallate hillfort, which is locally known as The Castle or Castle Hill (National Monument number: 1007022). The hillfort is roughly D-shaped, measuring 139m long by 90m wide, and overlooks the wide valley of Ladden Brook. A single rampart 2m high and outer ditch 0.5m deep survives along its northern, western and eastern sides with the southern side disturbed by a quarry.
- 2.3 The course of a Roman road between Redwick and Redworthy has previously been considered to pass east/west through the southern part of the site. However this has recently been de-listed from the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) by SGC as examinations of aerial mapping failed to locate any earthwork remains (WA 2013).
- 2.4 A find spot of a Roman silver coin dating to AD 240-244 (SGC HER number: 1554) was identified in a garden approximately 810m to the south-west of the site in the village of Latteridge.
- 2.5 Acton Court, a moated house constructed in the mid-13th century (National Monument number: 1004532; SGC HER number: 1539), is situated approximately 1.3km to the south-east of site. The house was altered over several centuries and was extensively rebuilt in the early 16th century. Much of the early Manor was demolished after 1550 leaving the remains of the 15th to 16th century house seen today at Acton Court. The moat was infilled by the mid-17th century.
- 2.6 A post-medieval brickworks (SGC HER number: 15976) has been identified approximately 600m to the north-west of the site. The brickworks were visible on the 1st edition OS map at Latteridge Lane. Adjacent to the brickworks a small building was also identified on the 1st edition OS map. This was thought to have been a brick kiln (WA 2013).

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

SGC 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 12 trenches, each measuring 25m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 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. 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 Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, 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 2-3)

- 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.

- 5.2 The natural geological substrate, consisting of mudstone, clay and silty-clay, was observed in all of the excavated trenches at an typical depth of 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). This was covered by silty-clay subsoil in Trenches 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, typically 0.08m in thickness. Topsoil sealed all trenches, typically measuring 0.33m in thickness.

Trench 12 (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 5.3 Natural substrate 1202, exposed at 0.41m bpgl, was cut by undated, north/south aligned ditch 1205 (Fig. 3: section AA). This ditch measured 1.19m in width and 0.22m in depth and extended beyond the boundaries of the excavated trench. The ditch was filled by silty-clay 1204, which contained no finds. This was sealed by subsoil 1201. The alignment of this ditch was parallel to Larks Lane to the west and perpendicular to a track to the north, both of which are first depicted on the 1840s Tithe Map of the area. The ditch itself is not depicted on any mapping.

6. THE FINDS

Pottery

- 6.2 Four sherds (101g) of pottery were recorded from three deposits (Appendix B). All are considered intrusive. Two small and abraded sherds (3g) of greyware, dating to the Roman period, were recovered from subsoil 901. Also in this deposit was a single sherd (2g) of glazed earthenware, only dateable from the mid 16th to 18th centuries. A single sherd of medieval date was recorded from topsoil 800. The sherd is a jug handle fragment in a sandy, oxidised fabric, possibly Malvernian ware, and dateable broadly to between the 15th and 17th centuries.

Lithics

- 6.3 A single item of intrusive, prehistoric worked flint was recorded from topsoil 900. The flake, with c. 20% cortex remaining on the dorsal side, cannot be closely dated.

Other finds

- 6.5 One iron object, a woodworking or agricultural tool fragment of probable modern date, was recorded from topsoil 200.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 A single, likely residual, animal bone (264g) was recovered from subsoil layer 901. The bone was poorly preserved but identifiable as a cattle tibia (*Bos taurus*).

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The evaluation only identified limited archaeological remains within the site, with all but one of the excavated trenches being entirely devoid of archaeological features. The only feature identified was a single linear ditch in Trench 12. The ditch observed within Trench 12 is aligned with the existing field boundaries on site, and to Larks Lane to the west and a track depicted on historic mapping immediately north of site. It is plausible that it represents a former field division, one that is not depicted on the historic mapping.
- 8.2 Artefactual evidence was very limited, and was recovered only from topsoil and subsoil deposits. The assemblage overall was mixed, comprising elements of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date, and of fragmentary nature.
- 8.3 The lack of Roman activity is noteworthy and further reduces the likelihood of the existence of a Roman road, as mentioned above, which had been postulated as running through the southern area of site. This reinforces the previous de-listing of the feature from the South Gloucestershire Council HER.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alex Thomson, assisted by Peter Searle and Michael Joyce. The report was written by Alex Thomson. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Katie Marsden and Andy Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Alex Thomson, 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 27 July 2016

Baker, P. and Worley, F. 2014 *Animal bones and archaeology: Guidelines for best practice* Swindon, English Heritage

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Larks Lane, Iron Acton, South Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

WA (Wessex Archaeology) 2013 *Green Farm, Latteridge, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. Ref: 100260.01



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

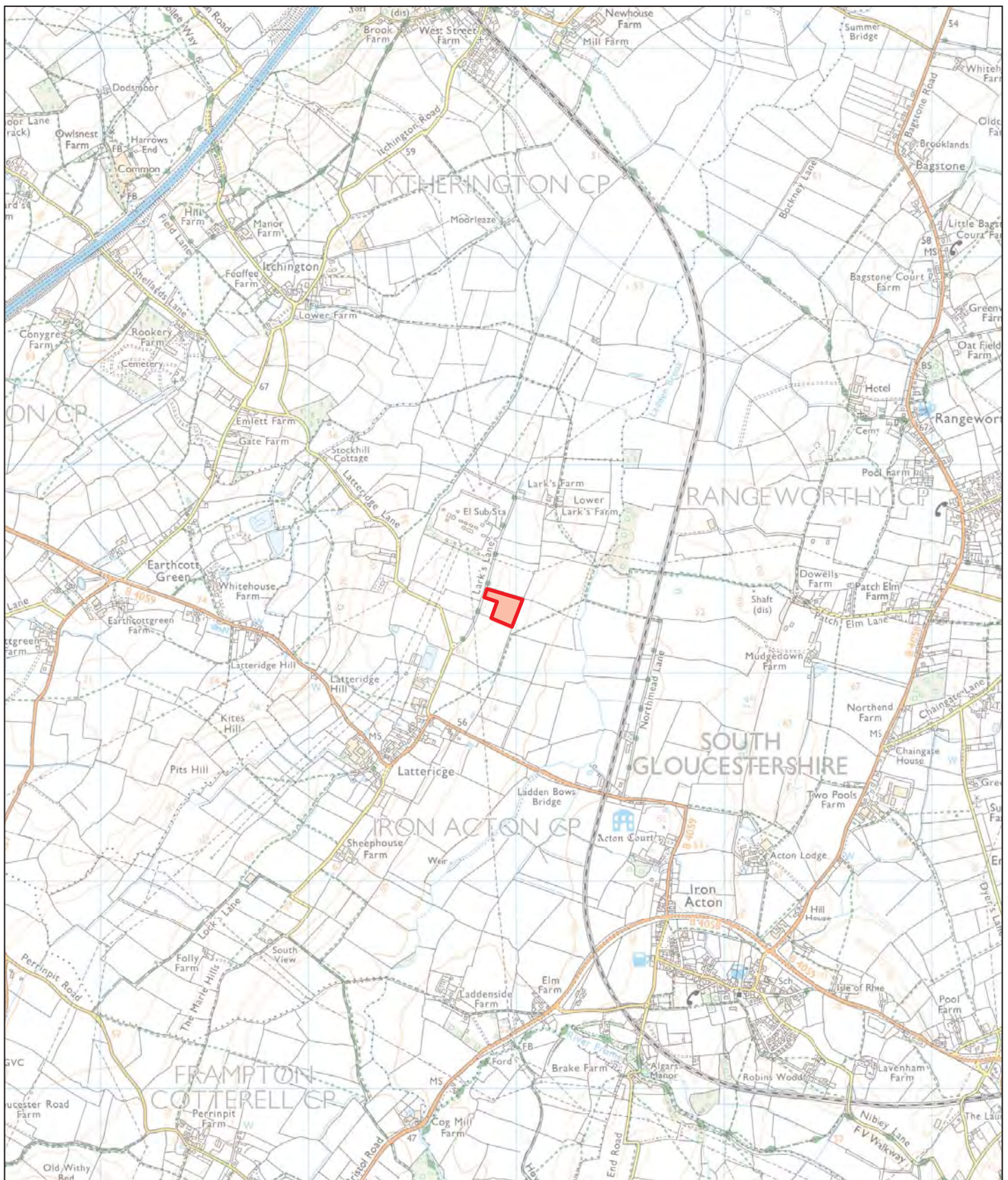
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.26	modern
1	101	Layer		Natural	Orangey-brown silty-clay and stone, with reddish-brown clay banding	>25	>1.8		
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.28	modern
2	201	Layer		Natural	Orangey-brown silty-clay and stone, with reddish-brown clay banding	>25	>1.8		
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.32	modern
3	301	Layer		Natural	Orangey-brown silty-clay and stone, with reddish-brown clay banding	>25	>1.8		
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.34	modern
4	401	Layer		Natural	Orangey-brown silty-clay and stone, with reddish-brown clay banding	>25	>1.8		
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.41	modern
5	501	Layer		Natural	Dark reddish-brown mudstone and clay	>25	>1.8		
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.36	modern
6	601	Layer		Natural	Dark reddish-brown mudstone and clay	>25	>1.8		
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.38	modern
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Orangey-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.05	
7	702	Layer		Natural	Dark reddish-brown mudstone and clay	>25	>1.8		
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.23	modern
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Orangey-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.08	
8	802	Layer		Natural	Orangey-brown silty-clay and dark reddish-brown clay	>25	>1.8		
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.29	modern
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Orangey-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.18	
9	902	Layer		Natural	Orangey-brown silty-clay and dark reddish-brown clay	>25	>1.8		
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.44	modern
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.1	
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Yellowish-reddish-brown clay and mudstone	>25	>1.8		
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.38	modern
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.11	
11	1102	Layer		Natural	Yellowish-reddish-brown clay and mudstone	>25	>1.8		
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.32	modern
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.09	
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Yellowish-reddish-brown clay and mudstone	>25	>1.8		
12	1204	Fill	1205	Ditch fill	Reddish-brown silty-clay	>4.2	1.19	0.22	undated
12	1205	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned linear cut with moderately sloping sides and concave base	>4.2	1.19	0.22	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
200	Iron	Tool	1	178	?C19-20
800	medieval pottery	?Malvernian	1	96	C15-C17
900	Flint	flake	1	20	
901	post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	1	2	MC16-C18
	Roman pottery	Greyware	2	3	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Larks Lane, Iron Acton, South Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2016 at Larks Lane, Iron Acton, South Gloucestershire. A total of 12 trenches were excavated.</p> <p>An undated north-east/south-west aligned ditch was identified in the western area of the site, running perpendicular parallel to Larks Lane to a lane to the north of site, and which may relate to an earlier land division.</p>	
Project dates	25-26 July 2016	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Iron Acton, South Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 6694 8530	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Alex Thomson	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Bristol Museum and Art Gallery	Ceramics, animal bone, flint, metal
Paper	Bristol Museum and Art Gallery	Fieldwork recording forms, registers and typescript report
Digital	Bristol Museum and Art Gallery	Typescript report, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 Larks Lane, Iron Acton, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript report 16421		



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

PROJECT TITLE
 Larks Lane, Iron Acton
 South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



Reproduced from the 2004 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 DJB	PROJECT NO. 5974	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY LM	DATE 01-08-2016	
APPROVED BY REY	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1



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



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

PROJECT TITLE
 Larks Lane, Iron Acton
 South Gloucestershire

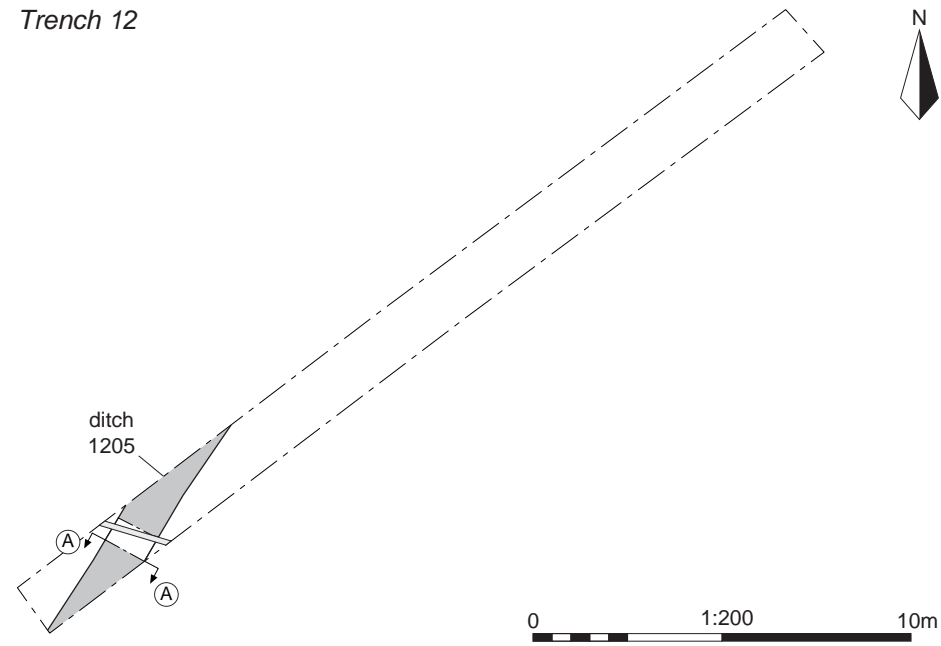
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing
 archaeological features

DRAWN BY DJB	PROJECT NO. 5974	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY LM	DATE 01-08-2016	2
APPROVED BY REY	SCALE@A3 1:750	

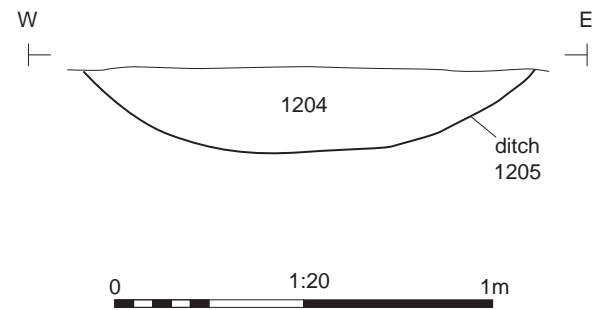
P:\5974 Larks Lane, Iron Acton, South Gloucestershire EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\5974 Fig 2.dwg

ST

Trench 12



Section AA



Trench 12, looking north-east, with ditch 1205 in foreground (scales 1m)

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

PROJECT TITLE
Larks Lane, Iron Acton
South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 12: plan, section and
photograph

DRAWN BY DJB PROJECT NO. 5974
CHECKED BY LM DATE 01-08-2016
APPROVED BY REY SCALE@A3 1:200 1:20

FIGURE NO.
3

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