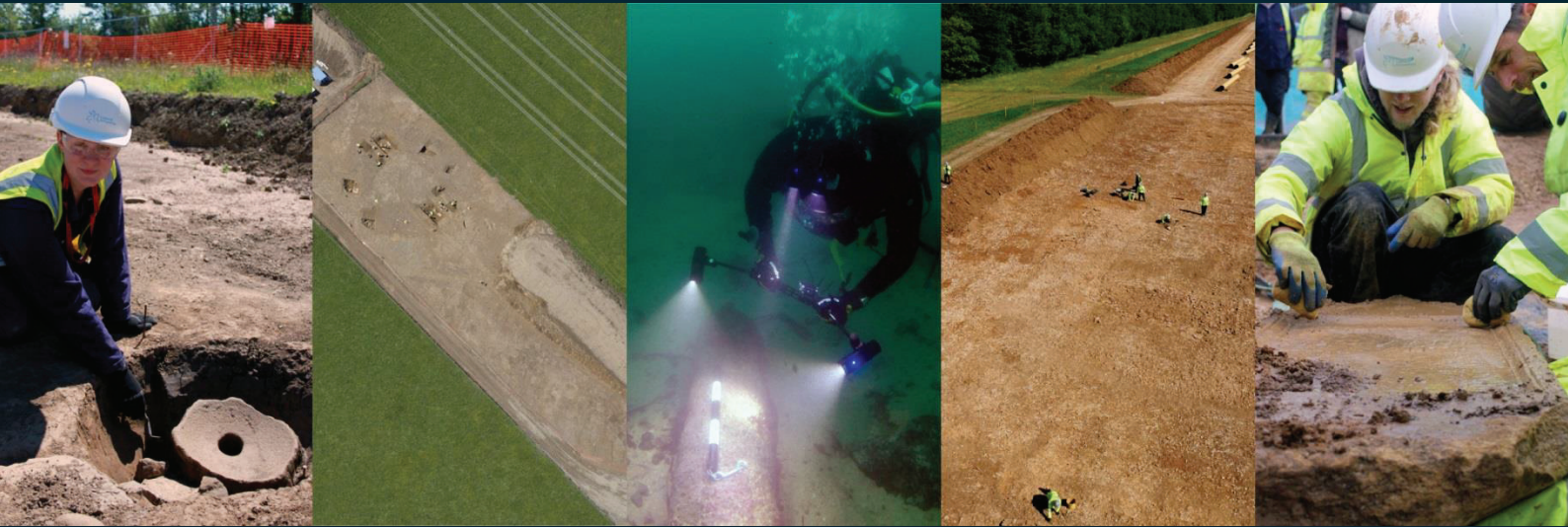


Cheltenham Crematorium
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Willmott Dixon

on behalf of
Cheltenham Borough Council

CA Project: 6232
CA Report: 17324

June 2017



Cheltenham Crematorium Cheltenham Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	15 June 2017	D Sausins	Ian Barnes	Draft	Client comment	X

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Cheltenham Crematorium
Location:	Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
NGR:	397536 223112
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	5-7 June 2017
Planning Reference:	Tewkesbury Borough Council ref 17/00425/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum
Site Code:	CHCR 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2017 at Cheltenham Crematorium, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. A total of five trenches were excavated.

Post-medieval ridge and furrow was identified throughout the site. No further archaeological features or deposits were identified.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Willmott Dixon on behalf of Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) at Cheltenham Crematorium, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 397536 223112; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to support an application to Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC; planning ref: 17/00425/FUL) for the erection of a new crematorium and associated works. The work was recommended by Charles Parry (Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council), the archaeological advisor to TBC.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017a) and approved by Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The application area is approximately 2.6ha in extent, and comprises two pasture fields immediately to the east of the existing crematorium grounds. It is bordered to the north, east and south by fields. The site lies at approximately 94m AOD, with ground level rising to the south to approximately 96m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic Period overlain by superficial deposits of Cheltenham Sand and Gravel of the Quaternary Period (BGS 2017). Clay and mudstone was identified during the evaluation.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during a Site Investigation on the current site (CA 2017b). This and other salient evidence is summarised below.
- 2.2 An archaeological evaluation of land adjoining the eastern and southern site boundaries as part of the Whaddon Flood Alleviation Scheme (CA 2017c) identified ditches, pits and other features, representing an area of Roman settlement

approximately 150m to the south of the current site, although there was no evidence of settlement activity extending as far as the current site boundary.

- 2.3 The current site is located approximately 1km south of the historic core of Prestbury. The only direct evidence for activity in Prestbury pre-dating the early medieval period is in the form of eight sherds of Roman pottery, part of a thick glass bottle or flask and a piece of iron slag found at the southern end of The Burgage. Prestbury was a small market town during the medieval period, development was encouraged by the presence of the residence of the Bishops of Hereford who owned the manor. Documentary sources record that the Bishops had a manor house in Prestbury from the 13th century, but pottery found during excavations at the manor in 1951 indicates that there was a building on the site from the 11th century (GCC 2007, 20).
- 2.4 It is probable that the site was located within the agricultural hinterland of the medieval and later settlement. Extensive areas of ridge and furrow cultivation are noted in the vicinity and were recorded during the Whaddon Flood Aleviation Scheme evaluation (CA 2017c).
- 2.5 Cheltenham cemetery opened in 1864 and was focussed on the western part of the existing cemetery grounds, closest to Bouncers Lane. The crematorium was added in 1938.
- 2.6 An archaeological watching brief undertaken during geotechnical trial pits and boreholes on the current site identified a number of ridge and furrow systems (CA 2017b).

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 TBC 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 five trenches (each measuring 30m in length and 2m in width) in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The position on Trench 5 was altered to avoid a footpath and Trench 3 was moved approximately 5m to the east to avoid a tree. 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 Cheltenham Art Gallery and 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 2-3)

- 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 Natural substrate, consisting of light grey silt clay in the south and mudstone in a red silt matrix in the north of site, was identified between 0.5m and 0.9m below present ground level (bpgl). A series of ridges and furrows were evident, extending to the modern ground surface. The furrows contained subsoil of 0.3m-0.6m in thickness, from which 18th to 20th century pottery was recovered. This was overlain by approximately 0.2m of topsoil. No archaeological features were identified.
- 5.3 Visual scanning of the spoil heaps and a metal detector survey of the application area failed to identify any other artefacts that pre-date the modern period.

6. FINDS REPORT

- 6.1 Artefactual material was recovered from three deposits (topsoil and subsoil). The recovered material dates to the prehistoric and post-medieval/modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Pottery fabric codes, in parenthesis in the text, are equated to the Gloucester type series (Vince unpublished). The artefacts are of minimal archaeological significance and will not be retained.

Pottery

- 6.2 The pottery was recovered from subsoils 201 and 401 (five sherds, 35g), and was of post-medieval/modern date. Represented fabrics were Creamware (TF69), of mid or later 18th century date, Pearlware (TF71), dating to the late 18th to mid-19th century, and transfer-printed refined whiteware (TF71), manufactured during the late 18th to 19th centuries.

Lithics

- 6.3 Topsoil deposit 400 produced two broken flint flakes of prehistoric date.

Other finds

- 6.4 A small folded fragment of sheet lead (8g) was retrieved from topsoil 400. The original form and date of this item are unclear.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Ridge and furrow aligned with the current field boundaries was identified throughout the site. The ridges were clearly visible and two parallel phases were identified within the northern field. Artefacts of prehistoric and unknown date were recovered from the topsoil across the investigation area, but do not provide a robust basis for interpretation.
- 7.2 The absence of any archaeological features suggests the application area fell within the historic hinterland of both Presbury to the north, and the Roman settlement to the south of the application area.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins, assisted by Anthony Beechey. The report was written by Daniel Sausins. The finds report was written by Jacky Somerville. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Andy Clarke and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 24 May 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017a *Cheltenham Crematorium, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA 2017b *Cheltenham Crematorium, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief, CA Typescript Report no. 17255*

CA 2017c *Whaddon and Prestbury Flood Alleviation Scheme, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Report No **17001**.

GCC (Gloucestershire Country Council) 2007 *Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey, Cheltenham Borough Archaeological Assessments: Prestbury*

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

Vince, A. G. *Guide to the Pottery of Gloucester*. Unpublished type fabric series.



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 black clay silt			0.19	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow brown clay silt			0.68	
1	102	Layer		Natural Substrate	Pale brown-grey silt clay with grey clay, yellow mudstone and iron pan flecking				
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt			0.2	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow brown clay silt			0.63	
2	202	Layer		Natural Substrate	Mid grey- yellow clay with mudstone				
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt			0.22	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow brown clay silt			0.62	
3	302	Layer		Natural Substrate	Mid grey- yellow clay with mudstone				
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt			0.23	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid-light yellow brown silty clay			0.32	
4	402	Layer		Natural Substrate	Mudstone in orange red silt matrix and occasional light grey clay				
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt			0.2	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid-light yellow brown silty clay			0.31	
5	502	layer		Natural Substrate	Mudstone in orange red silt matrix				

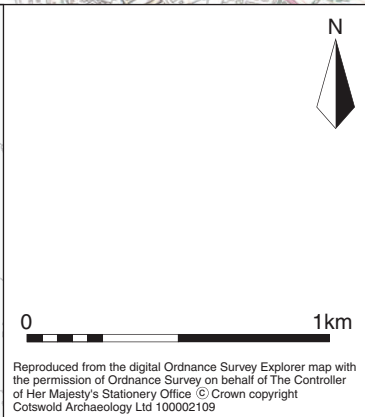
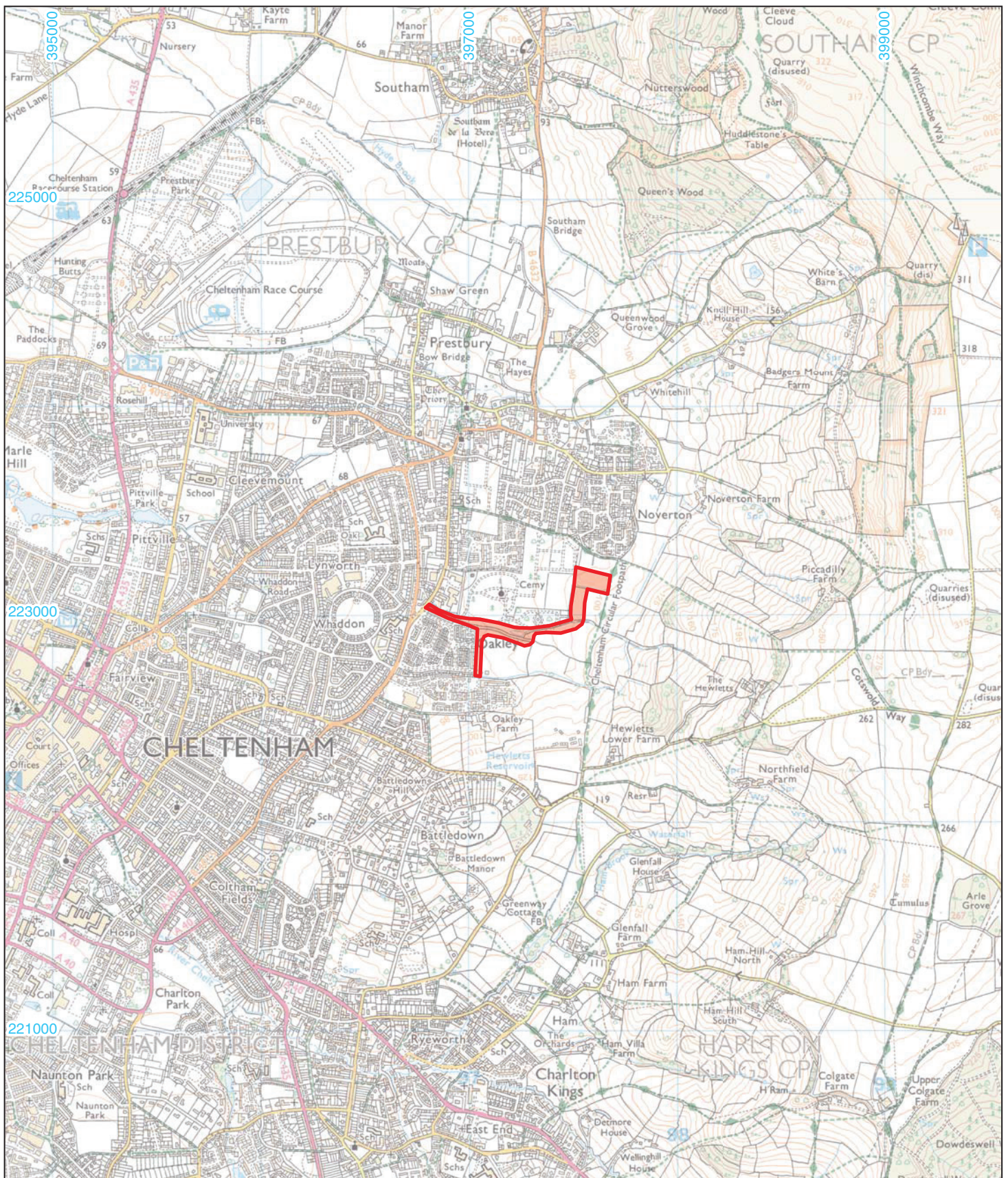
APPENDIX B: FINDS REPORT

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
201	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	TF71	1	8	LC18-C19
400	Worked flint Lead	Flake Fragment		2 1	10 8	-
401	Post-medieval pottery Post-medieval/modern pottery Post-medieval/modern pottery	Creamware Pearlware Transfer-printed refined whiteware	TF69 TF71 TF71	2 1 1	21 3 3	LC18-C19

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Cheltenham Crematorium, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2017 at Cheltenham Crematorium, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Five trenches were excavated. Post-medieval ridge and furrow was identified throughout the site. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.	
Project dates	5-7 June 2017	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Watching Brief (CA 2017)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Cheltenham Crematorium, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	397536 223112	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Daniel Sausins	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Cheltenham Art gallery and Museum	Flint
Paper	Cheltenham Art gallery and Museum	Trench sheets, photo registers
Digital	Cheltenham Art gallery and Museum	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Cheltenham crematorium, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17324		



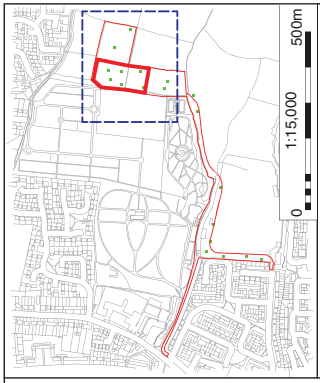
Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Cheltenham Crematorium, Cheltenham,
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY LD/EE	PROJECT NO. 6232	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 12/06/2017	1
APPROVED BY IB	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Furrow
- Land drain
- Tree throw
- Footpath



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Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 594680
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk



PROJECT TITLE
 Cheltenham Crematorium, Cheltenham,
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location showing area of
 boundary**

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 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 12/08/2017
 APPROVED BY IB SCALE @A3 1:1,000

FIGURE NO.
2



Extant Ridge and Furrows within Trench 3 (1m scale)



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

Cheltenham Crematorium, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **12/06/2017**
APPROVED BY **IB** SCALE@A4 **1:1,000**

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

