Cotswold Archaeology

Cotswold Hills Golf Club
Coberley
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Longman Archaeology

on behalf of
Grass Roots Planning Ltd.

CA Project: 6207
CA Report: 17269

May 2017

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

Cotswold Hills Golf Course
Coberley
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 6207
CA Report: 17269

Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	17 May 2017	Alex Thomson	Steven Sheldon	Client Issue		Cliff Bateman
B	18 May 2017	Alex Thomson	Steven Sheldon	Final LPA Issue		Cliff Bateman

CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Cotswold Hills Golf Course
Location:	Coberley, Gloucestershire
NGR:	395329 216582
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	3-9 May 2017
Planning Reference:	Gloucestershire County Council ref: 16/0101/CWMAJW
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Corinium Museum
Site Code:	CGC 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2017 at Cotswold Hills Golf Course, Coberley, Gloucestershire. A total of fifteen trenches was excavated.

The ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow cultivation was identified in a number of trenches excavated in the eastern half of the site. No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded during the course of the evaluation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Longman Archaeology, on behalf of Grass Roots Planning Ltd., at Cotswold Hills Golf Course, Coberley, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 395329 216582; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application submitted to Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) for the redevelopment of part of the existing golf course, comprising landscaping works and the importing of processed fill material to raise the ground level within the site (GCC planning ref: 16/0101/CWMAJW).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA and approved by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, GCC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). It was monitored by Mr Parry, including a site visit on 5 May 2017.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 6.6ha in extent and comprises parts of the southern, central and eastern areas of the existing golf course. The site is bounded to the south by the A436, to the east by farmland and to the north and west by the existing golf course. The site lies at approximately 250m AOD at its northern edge, with ground levels sloping down to reach 230m AOD at the site's southern extent.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Birdlip Limestone Formation of the Jurassic era, overlain by a band of Aston Limestone Formation within the eastern part of the site (BGS 2017). No superficial deposits are recorded (*ibid*.). The natural substrate, comprising compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay-silt, was identified in all of the excavated trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site has previously been subject to archaeological desk based assessment (BARAS 2016) and geophysical survey (Sumo 2017) in relation to the current planning application. The following is a brief summary of these assessments:

Prehistoric

2.2 No evidence of prehistoric activity has been identified within the site itself; however a number of prehistoric flint tools have been recovered as surface finds from fields to the north-east, east and south-east of the site respectively (BARAS 2016). A Neolithic long barrow is located *c*. 800m to the south of the current site and the major Neolithic and Iron Age hillfort of Crickley Hill lies 2.1km to the south-west of the site (*ibid*.).

Roman-British

2.3 Several Romano-British villas and possible settlements have been identified in the vicinity of the current site. These include; a possible Romano-British occupation site identified from surface finds recovered *c*. 500m to the north of the current site's north-western boundary, Coberley Villa located *c*. 1.6km to the south-east of the site and Dryhill Villa located *c*. 1.7km to the west of the site (*ibid*.). A number of surface finds of Romano-British pottery and metalwork have also been recovered to the north-west, north and south and south-east of the site respectively (*ibid*.).

Anglo-Saxon

2.4 No Anglo-Saxon finds are recorded from within the site itself. Evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in the wider area is limited to a small number of chance finds of metalwork recovered immediately to the south and south-east of the site (*ibid*.).

Medieval and post-medieval

2.5 The site lies *c*. 1km to the north-west of the medieval village and church of Coberley and *c*. 300m to the north of the Churn valley that appears to form the focus for settlement in the area during the medieval period (*ibid*.).

2.6 Documentary evidence indicates that the local medieval landscape was organised around dispersed open field systems, separated by extensive areas of meadow, pasture, sheepwalks and common land, farmed from the village of Coberley and from outlying settlements such as Upper Coberley. A further outlying settlement may have existed in the Churn valley, *c*. 300m to the south of the site, at 'Towns End'

which was later replaced by Dowman's Farm in the post-medieval period (*ibid*.). The 1838 Tithe Map of the Parish of Coberley shows the site occupied by two fields, the easternmost of which is named as 'Dowman's Field' in the accompanying apportionment. This field name indicates that the current site may have lain within part of the open fields of the possible outlying settlement at Dowman's Farm (*ibid*.).

Modern

2.7 The current site appears to have remained in agricultural (mixed arable, pasture and woodland) during the remainder of 19th and early 20th-centuries, whilst it formed part of the outer parklands of two nearby estates, Ullenwood Manor to the west and Seven Springs House to the east (*ibid*.). The current golf course was constructed in the 1970s and evidence from aerial photographs suggests that this involved some landscaping and stripping of soils (*ibid*.).

2.8 The geophysical survey (Sumo 2017) concluded that there were no responses of clear archaeological interest within the site, with identified anomalies probably relating to agricultural furrowing or geological variation. However, due to the widespread magnetic disturbance caused by the construction of the golf course, the majority of anomalies were categorised as being of 'uncertain origin'.

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 GCC 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 15 trenches, each measuring 50m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2).

Trenches 2, 9 and 15 were moved slightly from their original positions, as set out in the WSI, due to the presence of trees. The 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 from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. and will be deposited with Corinium 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 (FIGS 2-6)

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

5.2 The natural substrate was broadly similar throughout the site and comprised compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay-silt. It was overlain by between 0.04m and 0.46m thickness of subsoil which was itself overlain by between 0.09m and 0.34m of topsoil. No artefactual material was recovered during the course of the evaluation, despite the visual scanning of spoil.

5.3 A small number of plough furrows, typically measuring 1m in width, were identified cutting the subsoil in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 in the eastern half of the site. Where investigated, these were found to have a shallow 'U'-shaped profile and contain artefactually sterile silty clay fills. A number of these features correlated closely to linear anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey (SUMO 2017).

5.4 No archaeological features or deposits were identified in Trenches 1, 6 and 8-15. A number of linear and discrete anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey and targeted by Trenches 2, 5-9, 11 and 12 were not identified during the evaluation. However, it was noted that the majority of these anomalies correlated closely with observed changes in the natural substrate within the excavated trenches.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural practice, comprising the ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow field systems, was identified in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7. Where these features were encountered there was a broad correlation with the results of the preceding geophysical survey (SUMO 2017) in terms of their predicted orientation and general location within the site. However, not all of the furrows predicted by the geophysical survey were identified in the excavated trenches. Where excavated trenches were targeted on anomalies interpreted by the preceding geophysical survey as being of 'uncertain origin' the anomalies were shown to relate wholly to abrupt changes in the underlying natural substrate.

6.2 No evidence of modern truncation of the natural substrate was identified in the excavated trenches and it would appear that any below ground impacts associated with the construction of the current golf course during the 1970s were of a minimal nature. Therefore, the results of the evaluation support the findings of the preceding archaeological desk based assessment (BARAS 2016) that suggested that the proposed development area remained in agricultural usage from the medieval period onwards.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alex Thomson, assisted by Noel Boothroyd, Dani Adams and Sikko van der Brug. The report was written by Alex Thomson. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by Alex Thomson, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

8. REFERENCES

BARAS (Bristol and Region Archaeological Services) 2016 Cotswold Hills Golf Club Course, Coberley, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment, BARAS Report No. **3369/2016**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 10 May 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Cotswold Hills Golf Course, Coberley, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

SUMO Services Ltd 2017 *Cotswold Hills Golf Club, Coberley, Gloucestershire: Geophysical Survey*, SUMO Job Ref. **10835**

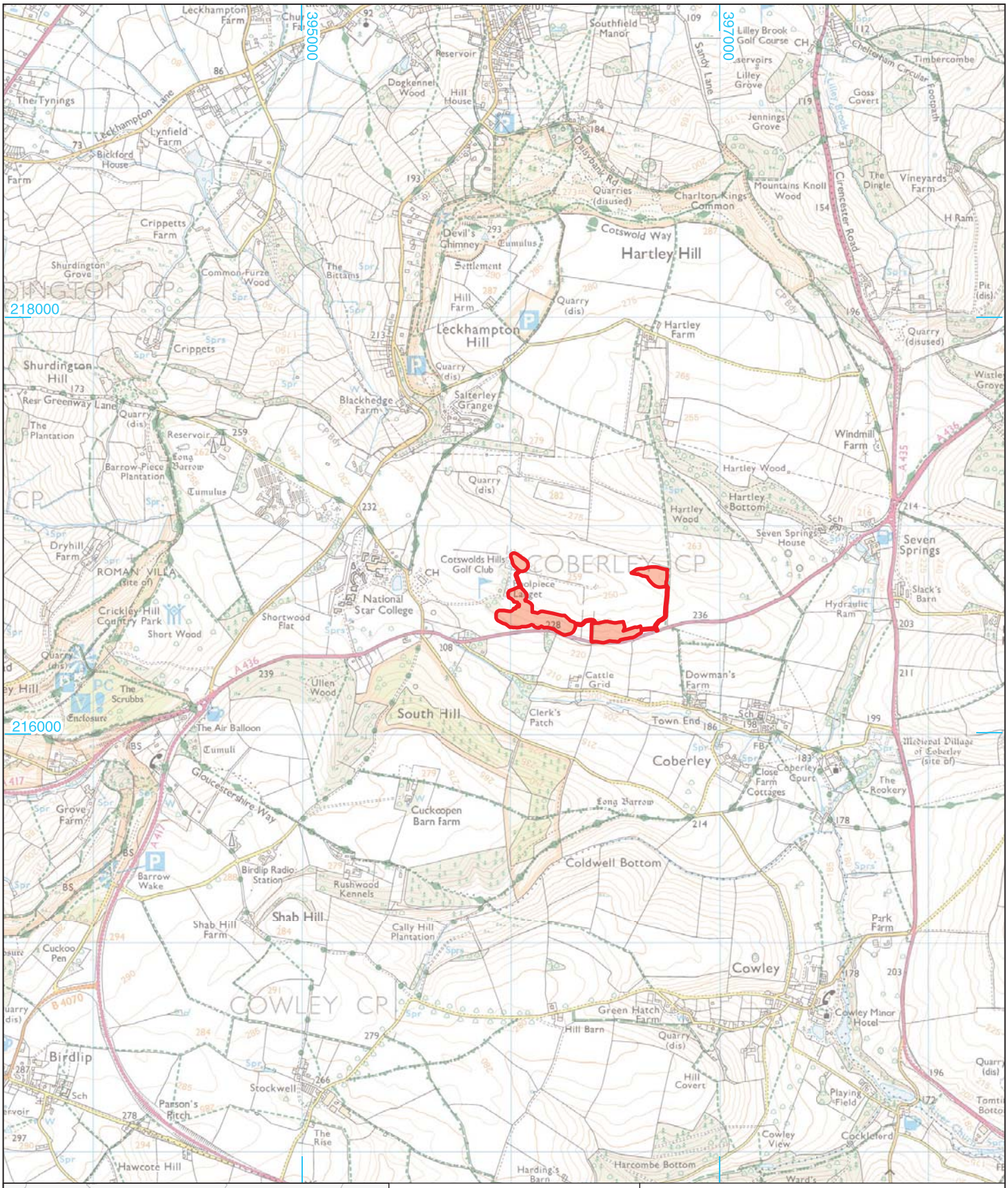
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.31
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.12
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>45	>1.8	0.3
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>45	>1.8	>0.1
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>9	>1.8	0.46
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.34
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.25
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches	>50	>1.8	>0.1
3	303	Cut		Furrow	Irregular E/W aligned furrow	>50	>1	0.18
3	304	Fill		Fill of furrow	Sterile red-brown silt clay	>50	>1	0.18
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.25
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.04
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.25
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.07
5	502	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.16
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.1
6	602	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.2
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.16
7	702	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1
7	703	Cut		Furrow	Irregular E/W aligned furrow	>3	0.8	0.13
7	704	Fill		Fill of furrow	Sterile red-brown silt clay	>3	0.8	0.13
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.1
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.15
8	802	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.09
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.06
9	902	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.27
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.11
10	1002	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches	>50	>1.8	>0.1

					of red-brown clay silt			
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.25
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.08
11	1102	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.24
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.09
12	1202	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.24
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.1
12	1202	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.35
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.07
13	1302	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.27
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.06
14	1402	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.28
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.07
15	1502	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact limestone brash with frequent irregular bands and patches of red-brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	>0.1

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Cotswold Hills Golf Course, Coberley, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2017 at Cotswold Hills Golf Course, Coberley, Gloucestershire. A total of fifteen trenches was excavated. The ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow cultivation was identified in a number of trenches excavated in the eastern half of the site. No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded during the course of the evaluation.	
Project dates	2-9 May 2017	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (BARAS 2016) Geophysical survey (SUMO 2017)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Cotswold Hills Golf Course, Coberley, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M^2/ha)	6.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	395329 216582	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Alex Thomson	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive:	Content:
Physical	Corinium Museum	N/A
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench recording forms, photographic register
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Cotswold Hills Golf Course, Coberley, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report **17269**		



N

0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Cotswold Hills Golf Course, Coberley, Gloucerstershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

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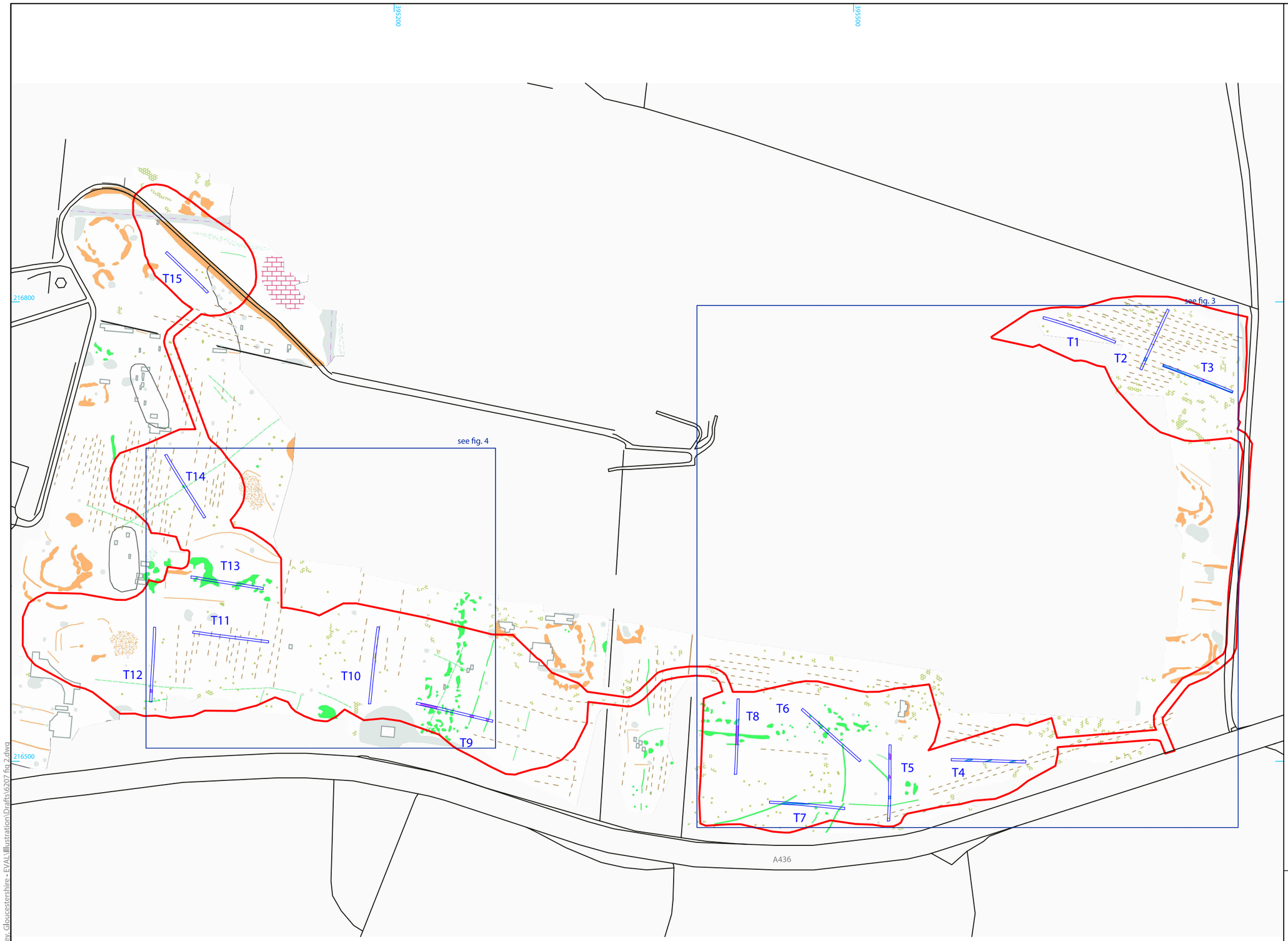

N

- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- geological feature
- furrow

geophysics key (Sumo 2017)

- golf course feature
- strong magnetic debris - former quarry
- former field boundary (corroborated)
- agriculture (e.g. ploughing)
- natural (e.g. geological or pedological)
- service
- ferrous
- uncertain (positive/area of increased response/trend)

0 100m

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PROJECT TITLE
Cotswold Hills Golf Course, Coberley, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

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395450

395550

216650

216550

T1

T2

T3

T4

T5

T6

T7

T8

A436

N

site boundary

evaluation trench

archaeological feature

geological feature

furrow

geophysics key (Sumo 2017)

golf course feature

strong magnetic debris - former quarry

former field boundary (corroborated)

agriculture (e.g. ploughing)

natural (e.g. geological or pedological)

service

ferrous

uncertain (positive/area of increased response/trend)

0 50m

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PROJECT TITLE

Cotswold Hills Golf Course, Coberley, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 1-8, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

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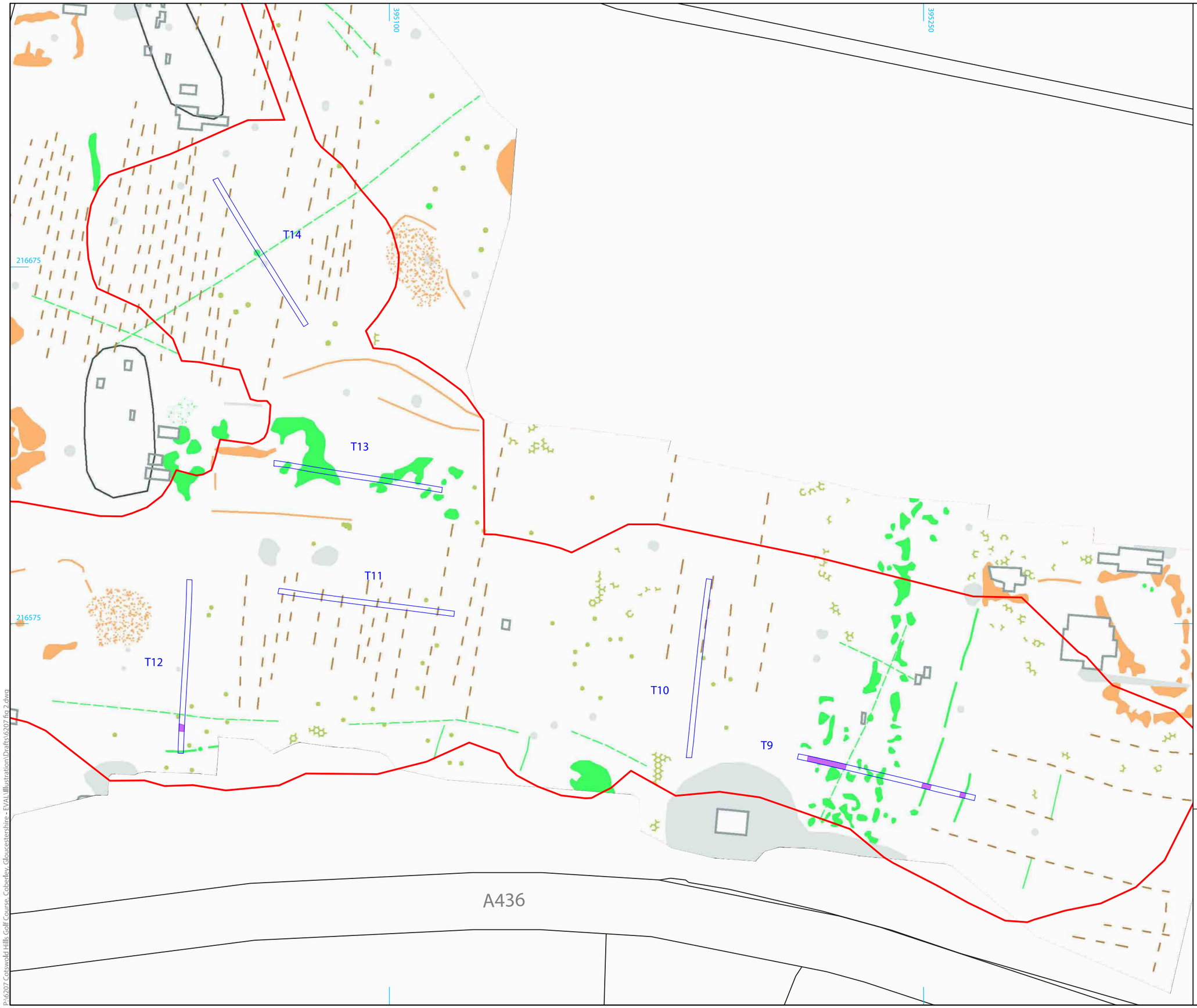

N

site boundary

evaluation trench

archaeological feature

geological feature

furrow

geophysics key (Sumo 2017)

golf course feature

strong magnetic debris - former quarry

former field boundary (corroborated)

agriculture (e.g. ploughing)

natural (e.g. geological or pedological)

service

ferrous

uncertain (positive/area of increased response/trend)

0 50m

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PROJECT TITLE

Cotswold Hills Golf Course, Coberley, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 9-14, showing geophysical survey results

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5

Trenches 1, 2 and 3, looking south-west

6

Trench 12, looking south (scales 1m)

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PROJECT TITLE

Cotswold Hills Golf Course, Coberley, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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