

Land off the Forty Cricklade Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Hunter Page Planning

on behalf of
Streamcross (Gloucester) Ltd

CA Project: 6037
CA Report: 16689

January 2017



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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	12 December 2016	M Joyce	Ian Barnes	Draft	Client comment	

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY	5
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5).....	5
6. THE FINDS	6
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE	7
8. DISCUSSION.....	7
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	8
9. REFERENCES.....	9
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	10
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	11
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	12

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
 Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:200 & 1:2000)
 Fig. 3 Photographs
 Fig. 4 Photographs
 Fig. 5 Photographs

SUMMARY

Project Name: Land off The Forty
Location: Cricklade, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 09572 93121
Type: Evaluation
Date: 28-29 November 2016
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Devizes Museum
Site Code: TFC16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2016 at land off The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire. A total of three trenches were excavated.

In the central area of the site, a post-medieval cobbled floor surface was exposed which correlated with the results of an earlier geophysical survey and late 19th century cartographic sources. An area of repair was noted at its southern extent where a later north-east to south-west wall had been built.

No other archaeological assets or deposits were recorded.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Hunter Page Planning, on behalf of Streamcross (Gloucester) Ltd, at land off The Forty (centred on NGR: SU 09572 93121; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in advance of a proposal for development to Wiltshire Council (WC). Following consultation with Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist, WC), it was determined that such a proposal for development should be supported by a programme of archaeological work. This was agreed to form a previously completed geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2016) in addition to trial trench evaluation. The latter were completed in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (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 is approximately 0.18ha in extent, and comprises an area of rough grass. It is bounded to the north by The Forty, to the west and east by plots facing on to The Forty and to the south by open ground. The site lies at approximately 83m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone of the Jurassic Period (BGS 2016). Clay was recorded at the limit of excavation in all of the evaluation trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A geophysical survey was completed of the proposed development area (Archaeological Surveys 2016), in addition to which Cricklade itself has been the topic of an Extensive Urban Survey (WCAS 2004). The following is a brief summary of these works and other pertinent evidence.

- 2.2 No archaeological remains of prehistoric date are known within the modern extent of Cricklade. The closest material comprises an Iron Age spearhead to the north of the town (WCAS 2004).
- 2.3 Roman evidence is known throughout Cricklade, and it has been posited that the town served as a river port for Corinium (Cirencester). Along The Forty itself, pottery and building debris have been recovered. To the north of the site, along the southern part of the High Street, artefacts including 2nd-4th century AD pottery sherds, wall plaster, tesserae and tile fragments were recovered (WCAS 2004).
- 2.4 Cricklade was noted to be crossing point across the Thames in 903, and was likely held by Malmesbury Abbey as part of the Royal Forest of Braydon (WCAS 2004). The site itself is located outside of the defended town, which was established by the late 9th century (Haslam 1984).
- 2.5 The geophysical survey of the site identified widespread ferrous material, which impacted severely on the ability of magnetometry to identify any anomalies of possible archaeological interest. The result of the earth resistance survey identified an L shaped anomaly, potentially a boundary wall or bank, within which was an area of high resistance, potentially a yard or agricultural building (Archaeological Surveys 2016). The findings of the earth resistance survey appear consistent with features illustrated in Ordnance Survey mapping of the late 19th century and modern.

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: Trench 1 and 2 measured 10m in length and Trench 3 measured 15m in length; all trenches were 1.8m in width. The trenches were excavated in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches were distributed over the footprint of proposed development footprint. 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 Devizes 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 2-5)

- 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

Trenches 1 & 2 (Fig 3)

- 5.2 Trenches one and two were heavily truncated by modern activity on the site, and no archaeological features were exposed. Topsoil directly overlay natural substrate in both trenches.

Trench 3 (Figs 4 & 5)

- 5.3 The earliest feature recorded in this trench was south-west north-east orientated ditch 316. It was broad and concave, and contained silty clay fills 314 and 315. Clay tobacco pipe fragments of mid-18th century date were recovered from both fills, alongside pottery of mid 16th to 18th-century date.
- 5.4 The stratigraphic sequence reflects what appear to be *ad hoc* alternations of a small scale structure. It is likely that the ditch went out of use and was sealed by a series of levelling deposits (311, 312 and 313). Cobbled floor surface 310 was noted to overly these deposits, covering the northern and central extents of the trench. Construction cut 306/307 (see Figs 2 and 6) is then noted to truncate all preceding deposits and features, and served as the cut for stone wall 305 and backfill deposits (303/304 and /308). The truncation of floor 310 by cut 306/307 is noted to have been made good by repair 302.
- 5.5 The structures 310 and 305 were in turn sealed by evidence of demolition/levelling (307). This was sealed by topsoil.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material comprising small quantities of post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipe and window glass, was recorded from three deposits (Appendix B).

Pottery

- 6.2 Pottery amounting to three sherds (37g) was recorded from fills 314 and 315, both of ditch 316. All occur in the same sandy, glazed earthenware fabric known to be manufactured locally at Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire. The recorded sherds are small and unfeatured and as such only broadly dateable within the production period for the Ashton Keynes pottery, which spans the mid 16th to 18th centuries.

Other finds

- 6.3 Items of iron from demolition layer 307 and fill 314 of ditch 316 comprise fragmentary nails; a heel plate was recovered from 314. All probably date to the post-medieval period. Of the same period is a small pale green-coloured window glass fragment from fill 315 of ditch 316. A total of five clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were recorded from fills 314 and 315 of ditch 316. One fragment is stamped with a three line mark reading 'GILES/CHAPR/LIN'. It is a variant of a mark recorded on material recovered in Cirencester (Wilkinson and Peacey 1998, 95), associated with a maker known to have worked in Ashton Keynes up to 1739.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1 A single fragment of animal bone (48g) was recovered from deposit 315. The bone was well preserved and identified as the partial pelvis of a pig (*Sus scrofa* sp). This species has been exploited as a domestic animal since the Neolithic, so its presence is to be expected (Baker and Worley, 2014). No cut and/or chop marks suggestive of an origin in butchery waste were present and no useful interpretative data beyond species identification, could be obtained.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The results of the evaluation corroborated the results of the preceding earth resistance survey, and identified archaeological assets in the central region of the site.
- 8.2 The archaeological assets identified in Trench 3, comprising a possible yard surface and boundary wall, correlate with the results of the earth resistance survey (AS 2016). Post medieval pottery was recovered between the paving of the yard surface, in addition to clay pipe fragments from the earliest fills of the ditch which underlay the boundary wall. These features were identified on late 19th century survey mapping.
- 8.3 The widespread ferrous material at the north of site, which hindered the use of magnetometry on site, was reflected by the high concentration of modern dumping visible throughout the landscape of the northern half of site (Trench 1 and 2).

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Michael Joyce, assisted by Gary Baddeley. The report was written by Michael Joyce. The finds evidence report was written by Ed McSloy and the biological evidence report was written by Andrew Clarke. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

DRAFT



9. REFERENCES

Archaeological Surveys 2016 *Land off The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire – Magentometer and Earth Resistance Survey Report* Ref no. **J690**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 30 November 2016

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Haslam, J. 1984 'The Towns of Wiltshire' In J. Haslam (ed.) *Anglo-Saxon Towns in southern England*.

Wiltshire County Archaeological Service 2004 *The Archaeology of Wiltshire's Towns – An Extensive Urban Survey: Cricklade*

Wilkinson, D.J. and McWhirr, A. 1998 *Cirencester Excavations IV: Cirencester Anglo-Saxon Church and Medieval Abbey* Cirencester, Cotswold Archaeological Trust

Wilkinson, D.J. and Peacey, A. 1998 'Clay pipes' in Wilkinson and McWhirr 1998, 94–96

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	101	Layer		topsoil	Rooted grey brown silt clay	10	1.8		
1	102	Layer		natural substrate	Mid orange grey clay	10	1.8	-	
2	201	Layer		topsoil	Rooted grey brown silt clay	10	1.8		
2	202	Layer		natural substrate	Mid orange grey clay	10	1.8	-	
3	301	Layer		topsoil	Rooted grey brown silt clay	15	1.8	0.14	
3	302	Deposit		floor repair	Limestone floor repair	1.78	2.3	0.16	
3	303	Layer		levelling layer	levelling for floor repair 302	0.5	0.5+	0.11	
3	304	Fill	306	backfill for wall	levelling for floor repair 302	0.4	0.5+	0.16	
3	305	Wall		NE-SW wall	Limestone wall	2.3	0.7	0.22	
3	306	Cut		construction cut	Cut for 305	2.3	0.56	0.22	
3	307	Deposit		demolition layer	overlying wall demo	2.3	1.2+	0.15	
3	308	Fill	309	backfill for wall	fill in cut 309 for wall 305	2.3	0.22	0.20	
3	309	Cut		construction cut	Cut for 305	2.3	0.22	0.20	
3	310	Floor		limestone paving	Limestone floor surface	6.55	1.8+	0.18	
3	311	Deposit		levelling deposit	levelling for floor 310	0.65+	0.16+	0.11	
3	312	Deposit		levelling deposit	levelling for floor 310	0.5+	0.45+	0.11	
3	313	Deposit		levelling deposit	levelling for floor 310	0.5+	0.4+	0.14	
3	314	Fill	316	fill of ditch	fill of 316, reclamation	2.1+	1.61	0.22	
3	315	Fill	316	fill of ditch	fill of 316, reclamation	1.15+	1.54	0.10	
3	316	Cut		boundary ditch	filled and built on with 305	2.1+	1.83	0.28	
3	317	Layer		natural substrate	Rooted mid orange grey clay	15+	1.8+	-	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

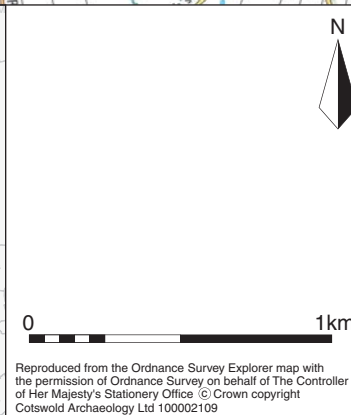
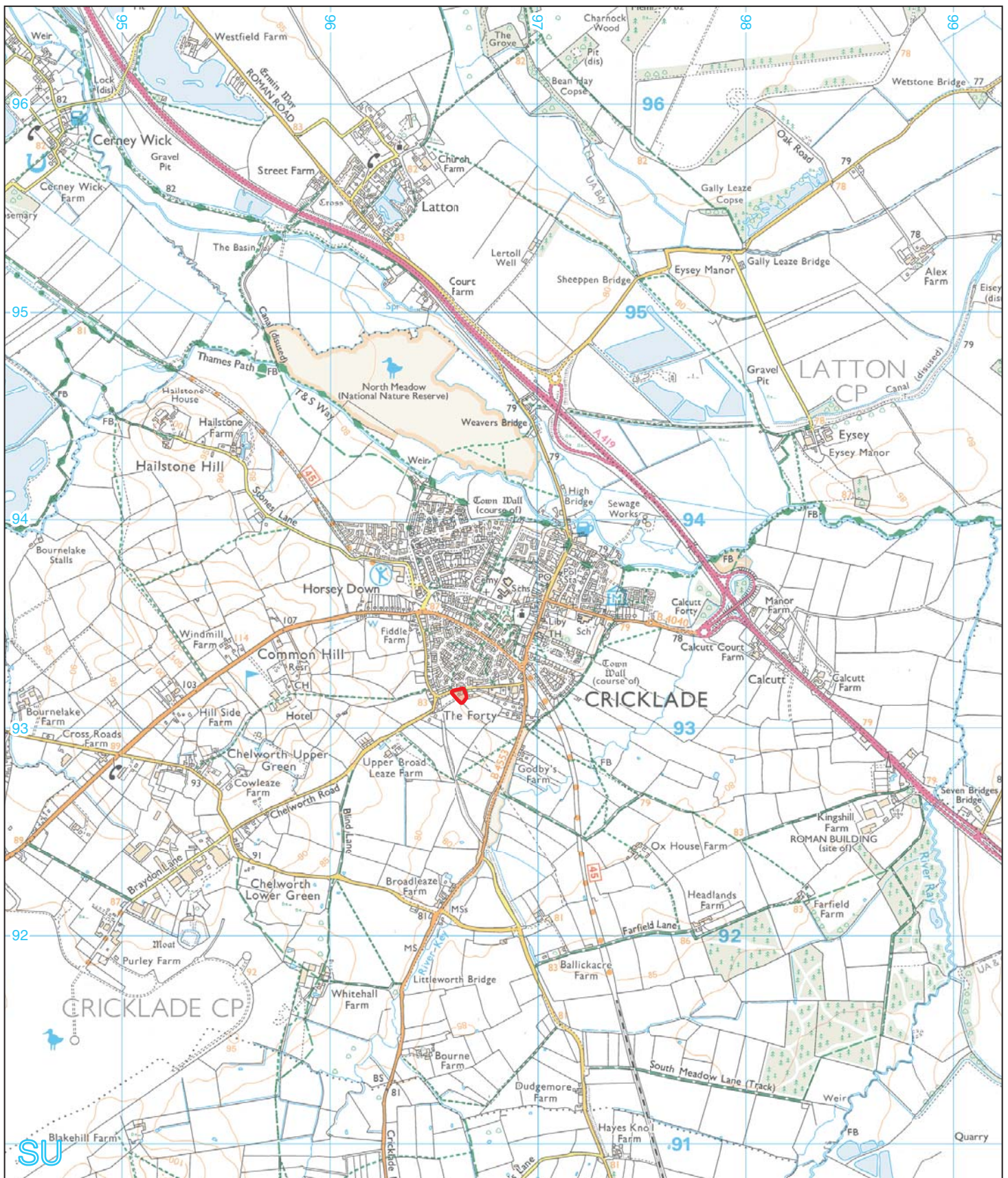
Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
307	Fe object	nail	2	26	pmed
314	Pmed. pottery	Ashton Keynes glazed	1	5	C17-C18
	Clay tobacco pipe	stem	1	4	
	Fe object	Heel plate, nail	2	45	
315	Pmed. pottery	Ashton Keynes glazed	2	32	C18
	Clay tobacco pipe	stem	4	17	
	Glass	Window glass	1	2	

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APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off the Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2016 at Land off the Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire. Three trenches were excavated.</p> <p>In trench three, a post medieval cobbled floor surface was exposed, with an area of repair at its southern extent where a later north-east to south-west wall had previously truncated it. In trenches one and two, no archaeological deposits were present.</p>	
Project dates	28-29 November 2016	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Magnetometer and Earth Resistance Survey Ref No. J690	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land off the Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SU 0957 9312	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Michael Joyce	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Devizes Museum	Pot, Fe, Animal bone, CTP, glass
Paper	Devizes Museum	Context sheets, registers,
Digital	Devizes Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Land off the Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report 16689</p>		



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

Land off The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO. 6037	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AO	DATE	
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A4	
		1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- structural feature



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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
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	6037	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AO	DATE	16.12.16	
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A3	1:400 & 1:200 (inset)	2

C:\Users\rosanna.oice\appdata\local\temp\AcPublish_1456816037_Cricklade EVAL Fig 02.dwg



3

3 Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scales)



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

PROJECT TITLE

Land off The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

3



4

4 Trench 2, looking south-west (1m scales)



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

PROJECT TITLE

Land off the Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A4	N/A	4



5

5 Trench 3, looking south (1m scales)



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

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Land off The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

5



6



7

- 6 Wall 305 and floor repair 302, looking north-east (1m scale)
- 7 Wall 305 and construction layer 304, looking south-east (1m scale)



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Archaeology**

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

PROJECT TITLE

Land off The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

6 & 7



8

8 Sondage through floor 310, and levelling deposits 312 and 313, to natural, looking north-north-east (0.5m scale)



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Archaeology**

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

PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

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FIGURE NO.

8

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