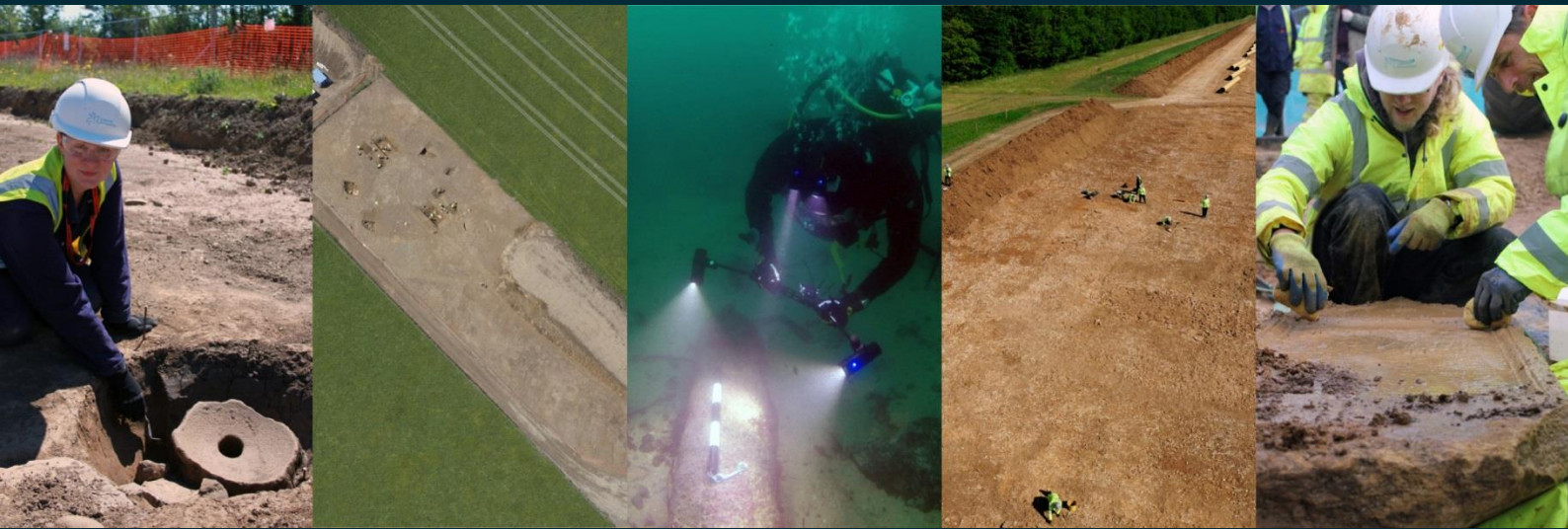


**Land at Catsbrain Farm
Kingsdown Lane
Swindon
Wiltshire**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Green Hedge Energy Barn 2 Limited

CA Project: 6343
CA Report: 17469

August 2017



Land at Catsbrain Farm
Kingsdown Lane
Swindon
Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	24 August 2017	Peter Busby	Ian Barnes	Draft	Client comment	

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Catsbrain Farm
Location: Kingsdown Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire
NGR: 417531,189082
Type: Evaluation
Date: 3 August 2017
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code: CATF 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology on 3 August 2017 at Land at Catsbrain Farm, Kingsdown Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire. A total of two trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Green Hedge Energy Barn 2 Limited at land at Catsbrain Farm, Kingsdown Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 417531,189082; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a future planning application on the advice of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC), archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council (SBC).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 2.5ha, and comprises a series of grassed fields. It is bounded to the north by Kingsdown Lane and an area of trees, to the east, west and south by a tree line against adjacent land parcels. The site lies at approximately 108m AOD and is level.
- 1.4 The underlying geology is mapped as Hazelbury Bryan Formation and Kingston and Stanford Formations of the Jurassic Period. Superficial deposits recorded within the Site comprise alluvium (i.e. clay, silt, sand and gravel) of the Quaternary period (BGS 2017). The natural substrate encountered during the evaluation comprised clay.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been subject to archaeological desk-based assessment (CA 2017) and geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2017). The results of these works are summarised below.
- 2.2 The site was characterised as being favourable for settlement during the later prehistoric and Roman periods. There are also likely to be remains associated with post-Roman agricultural activities and field boundaries within the site. Documentary

evidence indicated the site was in use for arable farming since at least the early 19th century (CA 2017).

- 2.3 The geophysical survey identified a series of anomalies of potential archaeological interest. At the north-western extent of the site pit-like features were recorded, though these may represent agricultural activity or tree throw pits. Linear trends indicating agricultural drainage are noted across the site (Archaeological Surveys 2017).

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 SBC 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 two trenches, both 15m long by 1.9m wide, in the locations shown in the WSI and 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. No artefacts were identified; spite scanning the arising's from the trenches.

- 4.4 The archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery. 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 2-3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 A similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded in both trenches. The clay substrate was encountered at an average depth of 0.38m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural substrate was overlain by a clay subsoil, which was 0.13m in thickness. It had a very defuse boundary with the modern topsoil sealing it, which was 0.25m in thickness. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified.
- 5.3 Three modern field drains were noted within Trench 2, which correlated with recorded geophysical anomalies. All other anomalies appeared to be of geological origin.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 In spite of the archaeological potential of the area, the evaluation identified no archaeological remains. Where excavated trenches were targeted on anomalies interpreted by the preceding geophysical survey, they were shown to relate to either changes in the underlying natural substrate or modern field drains.
- 6.2 No evidence of truncation to or impact on the natural substrate was identified in the excavated trenches. As such it would appear that any below ground impacts associated with the documented agriculture from the early 19th century, and indeed any earlier activity, were of a minimal nature or outside of the site (CA 2017).

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Sworn, assisted by Peter Busby. The report was written by Peter Busby. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

8. REFERENCES

Archaeological Surveys 2017 *Land at Catsbrain Farm, Kingsdown, Swindon: Magnetometer Survey Report* Ref: **J717**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 9 July 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Land at Catsbrain Farm, Kingsdown Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Land at Catsbrain Farm, Kingsdown Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*, CA Report No. **17259**

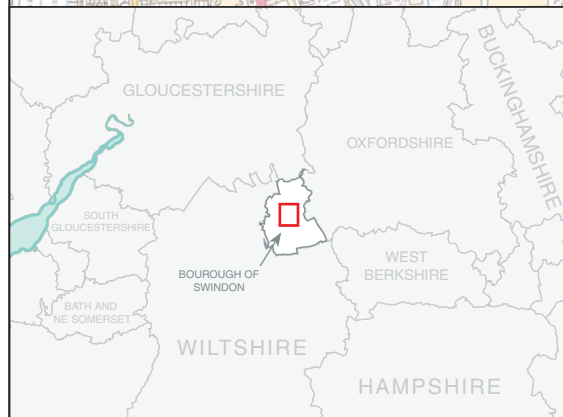
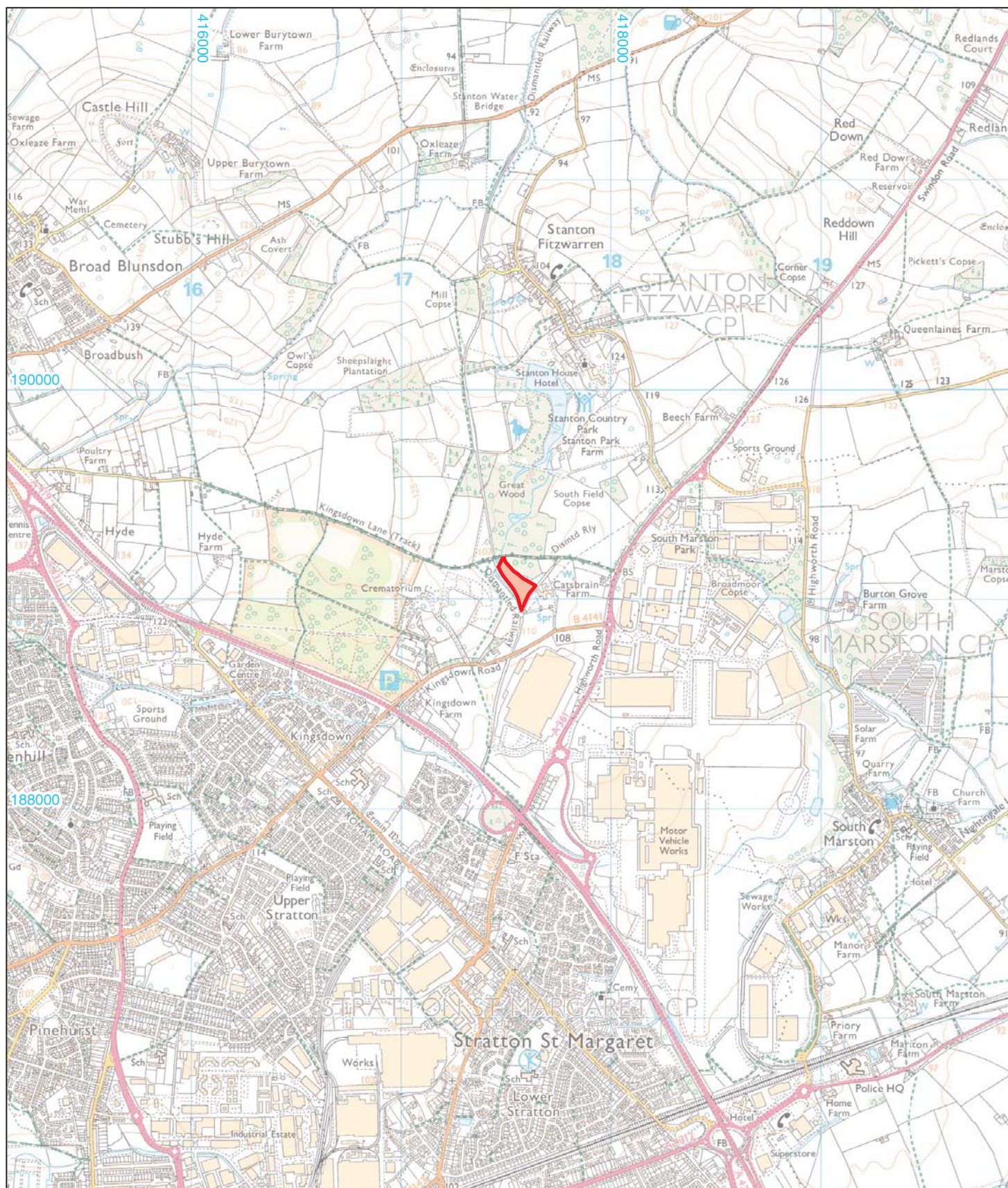


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	101	Layer		Topsoil	Very dark brown silt clay	>15	>1.9	0.26
1	102	Layer		Subsoil	Brown silt clay	>15	>1.9	0.13
1	103	Layer		Natural	Light yellowy grey brown clay with 5% fine gravel and sand	>15	>1.9	>0.02
2	201	Layer		Topsoil	As 102	>15	>1.9	0.23
2	202	Layer		Subsoil	As 202	>15	>1.9	0.13
2	203	Layer		Natural	As 203	>15	>1.9	>0.18

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Catsbrain Farm	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology on 3 August 2017 at Land at Catsbrain Farm, Kingsdown Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire. A total of two trenches were excavated.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	3 August 2017	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey, Archaeological Surveys 2017 Land at Catsbrain Farm, Kingsdown, Swindon: Magnetometer Survey Report Ref: J717	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Kingsdown Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.5ha	
Site co-ordinates	417531,189082	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Simon Sworn	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive =	Content
Physical		None
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Trench sheets
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land at Catsbrain Farm, Kingsdown Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report 17469</p>		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Catsbrain Farm, Kingsdown Lane,
 Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

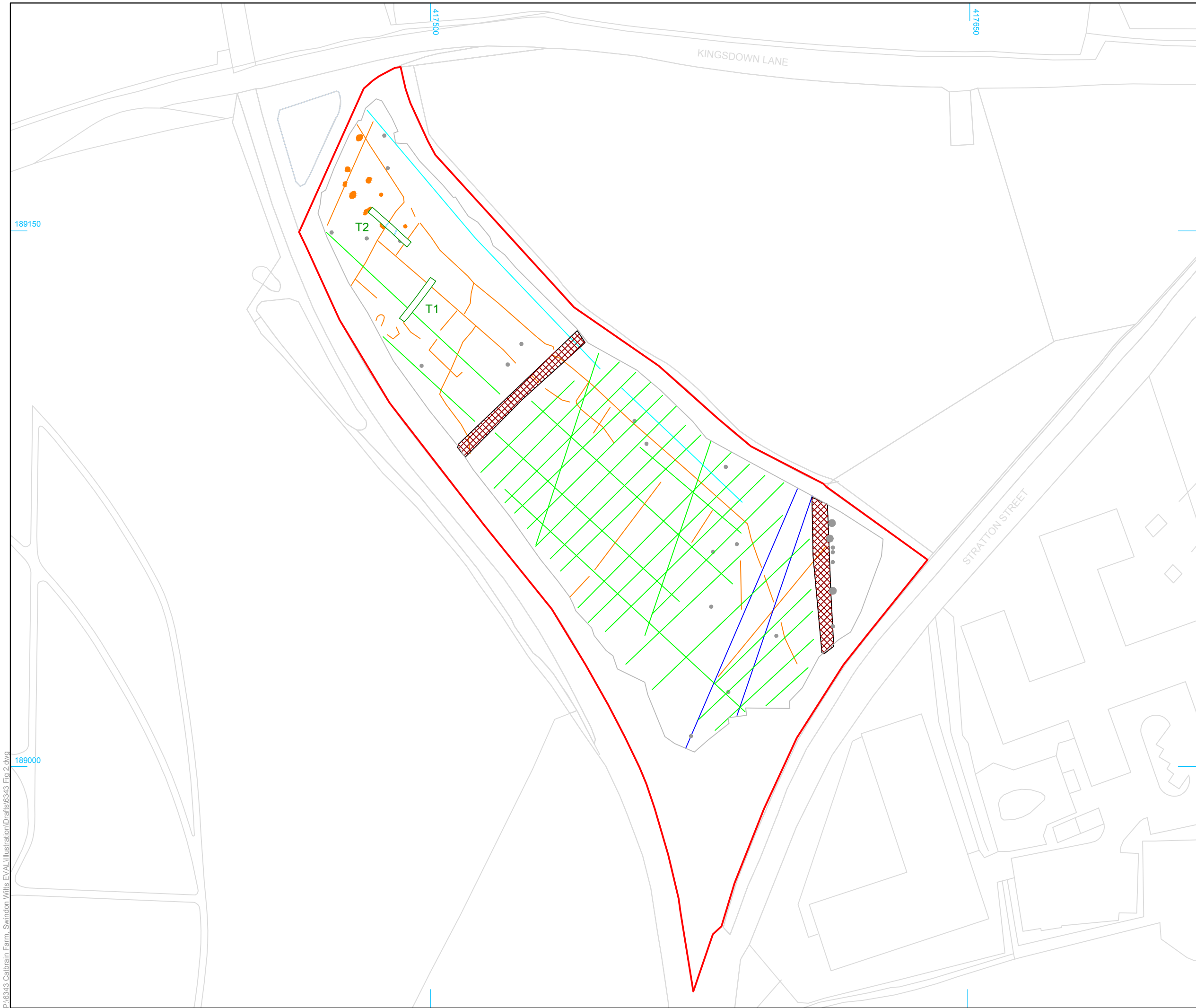
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DRAWN BY CP
 CHECKED BY DJB
 APPROVED BY IB

PROJECT NO. 6343
 DATE 07/08/2017
 SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- field drain

Geophysics Key
(Archaeological Surveys Ltd.)

- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Negative linear anomaly - material of low magnetic susceptibility
- Linear anomaly - of agricultural origin
- Positive linear anomaly - possible land drain
- Positive linear anomaly - possible former field boundary
- Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Catsbrain Farm, Kingsdown Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	6343	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	07/08/2017	2
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A3	1:1,000	



Excavated Trench 1, looking south-west (scale 1m)

3



South facing section of Trench 1, looking north (scale 0.5m)

4

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