

Longford Park (Site D073) Banbury Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
eight20

on behalf of
Thames Water Utilities
Ltd

CA Project: 6272
CA Report: 17540

September 2017



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Banbury
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:5000)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Longford Park (Site D073)
Location: Banbury, Oxfordshire
NGR: 446941 239010
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 10-12 May 2016 and 29 August 2017
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service
Accession Number: OXCMS: 2017.139
Site Code: LPB16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the excavation of inspection trenches along the line of an existing water main at Longford Park, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between May 2016 and August 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for eight²⁰, on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd, at Longford Park (Site D073), Banbury, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR: 446941 239010; Fig. 1). The watching brief comprised Permitted Development for the inspection and repair of an existing water main but is governed by Thames Water's responsibilities under the *Code of Practice on Conservation, Access and Recreation*.
- 1.2 Following consultation with Hugh Coddington, Archaeology Team Leader, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and archaeological advisor to Cherwell District Council (CDC), it was agreed that a watching brief was required during the excavation of inspection trenches along the line of the existing water main. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (CA 2017) and approved by Mr Coddington. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The current works were located within four agricultural fields located approximately 300m to the south-east of Banbury. The fields are bounded to the west by a minor road known as 'Bankside' and to the north, south and east by farmland. The water main route also crosses the Oxford Canal. The water main route slopes from south to north, with the ground level dropping from approximately 108m AOD at its southern extent to approximately 87m AOD at its northern edge.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic era (BGS 2017). Superficial deposits of Alluvium of the Quaternary Period are noted across the northern parts of the water main route (*ibid.*). The natural substrate, comprising compact clay with frequent outcrops of interbedded mudstone, was revealed throughout the areas subject to groundworks.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The water main route is situated in an area of known archaeological potential. The following is a summary of publically available information pertinent to the site:

- 2.2 Two Neolithic pits and a number of unstratified flints of early Neolithic to Bronze Age date were recorded during a watching brief undertaken c. 800m to the south-west of the current water main works (JMHS 2005). A Middle to Late Neolithic pit and a number of ditches, also considered to be of possible Neolithic date, were recorded during an archaeological evaluation undertaken c. 1.4km to the north of the current water main works (OA 2003).
- 2.3 The projected line of a Roman road between Bodicote and Twyford Mill is recorded by the Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record (OCCHER) c. 0.9km to the south of the current water main works (OCCHER 11617). Further Roman activity, comprising a series of ditches and a cremation burial, was recorded during an archaeological evaluation undertaken c. 1.4km to the north of the current water main works (OA 2003).
- 2.4 An archaeological evaluation undertaken c. 1km to the south-west of the current site identified five ditches, all of which appeared to pre-date an artefactually dated medieval field system (CA 2015).
- 2.5 The water main route crosses the Oxford Canal, constructed during the late 18th century to link Oxford to Coventry. A number of post-medieval lift and swing bridges are recorded alongside the canal two of which, the Haynes Lift Bridge (OCCHER 4319) and the Foxes Lift Bridge (OCCHER 4320), are Grade II listed. The 1882-1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows the area surrounding the current water main works as agricultural land, subdivided in to four regular fields. The layout of these fields remains essentially unchanged on all subsequent editions of OS mapping.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;

- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2017). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of five water main inspection trenches (see Fig. 2 for the location and extent of observed groundworks). Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service under accession number OXCMS: 2017.139. 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 (FIG. 2)

- 5.1 A broadly comparable stratigraphic sequence was observed in all of the excavated trenches. The natural substrate, comprising compact clay with frequent outcrops of interbedded mudstone, was encountered at a depth of between 0.2m and 0.69m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil, measuring between 0.11m and 0.45m in thickness, which was in turn cut by the service trench for the existing water main. The backfill of this service trench was sealed by topsoil.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the area (see *archaeological background* above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Sara-Jane Boughton and Liam Wilson. The report was written by Sian Reynish. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Sian Reynish, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 11
September 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Wykam Park Farm, Banbury, Oxfordshire; Archaeological Evaluation (Phase II)*, CA Report No. **15037**

CA 2017 *Longford Park (Site D073), Banbury, Oxfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

JMHS (John Moore Heritage Services) 2005 *An Archaeological Watching Brief of Banbury Booster 876F, Oxfordshire*, JMHS Report No. **1538**

OA (Oxford Archaeology) 2003 *Banbury Flood Alleviation Scheme, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report*, OA Job No. **1792**

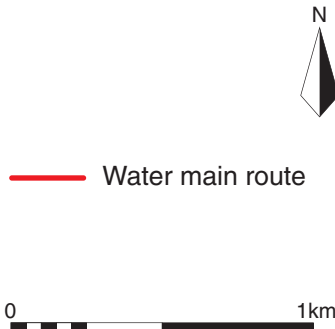
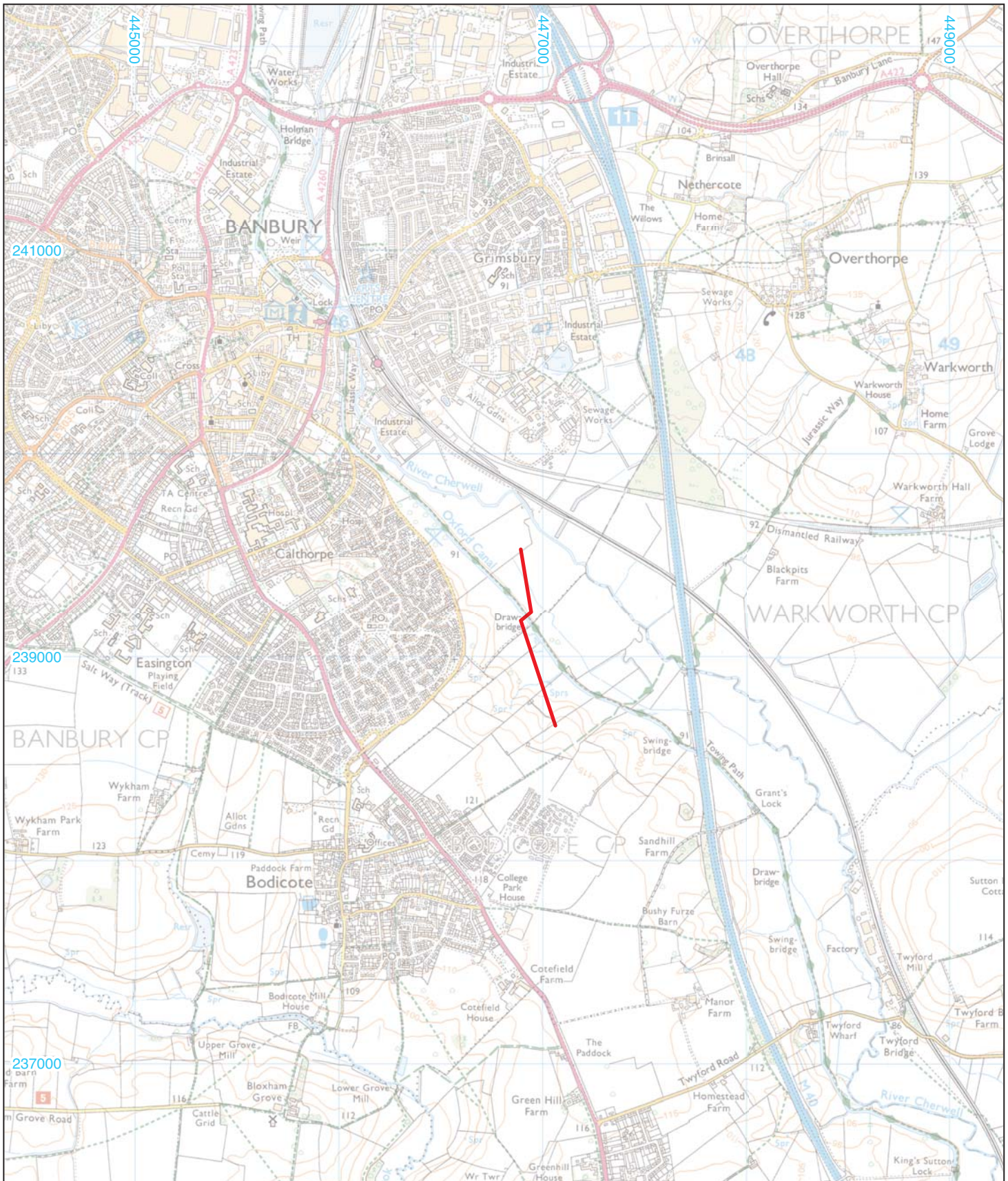


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown clay silt	>5.8	>5.7	0.35
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions	>5.8	>5.7	0.15
1	102	Cut		Modern service trench	North-south aligned service trench with near vertical sides, contains existing metal water main	>5.8	>0.8	>0.8
1	103	Fill	102	Modern service trench backfill	Highly mixed dark grey-brown sand silt with occasional plastic and metal inclusions	>5.8	>0.8	>0.8
1	104	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mid orange grey and blue clay with frequent outcrops of interbedded mudstone	>5.8	>5.7	>0.6
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown clay silt	>3.4	>3.17	0.24
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions	>3.4	>3.17	0.45
2	202	Cut		Modern service trench	North-south aligned service trench with near vertical sides, contains existing metal water main	>3.17	>1.9	>0.5
2	203	Fill	202	Modern service trench backfill	Highly mixed dark grey-brown sand silt with occasional plastic and metal inclusions	>3.17	>1.9	>0.5
2	204	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mid orange grey and blue clay with frequent outcrops of interbedded mudstone	>3.4	>3.17	>0.55
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown clay silt	>5	>4.6	0.11
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions	>5	>4.6	0.29
3	302	Cut		Modern service trench	North-south aligned service trench with near vertical sides, contains existing metal water main	>5	>1	>0.8
3	303	Fill	302	Modern service trench backfill	Highly mixed dark grey-brown sand silt with occasional plastic and metal inclusions	>5	>1	>0.8
3	304	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mid orange grey and blue clay with frequent outcrops of interbedded mudstone	>5	>4.6	>0.1
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown clay silt	>5.2	>5	0.22
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions	>5.2	>5	0.3
4	402	Cut		Modern service trench	North-south aligned service trench with near vertical sides, contains existing metal water main	>5.2	>1.5	>0.9
4	403	Fill	402	Modern service trench backfill	Highly mixed dark grey-brown sand silt with occasional plastic and metal inclusions	>5.2	>1.5	>0.9
4	404	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mid orange grey and blue clay with frequent outcrops of interbedded mudstone	>5.2	>5	>0.22
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown clay silt	>6	>0.75	0.21
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions	>6	>0.75	0.39
5	502	Cut		Modern service trench	North-south aligned service trench with near vertical sides, contains existing metal water main	>6	>0.5	>0.5
5	503	Fill	502	Modern service trench backfill	Highly mixed dark grey-brown sand silt with occasional plastic and metal inclusions	>6	>0.5	>0.5
5	504	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mid orange grey and blue clay with frequent outcrops of interbedded mudstone	>6	>0.75	>0.11

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Longford Park (Site D073), Banbury, Oxfordshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the excavation of inspection trenches along the line of an existing water main at Longford Park, Banbury, Oxfordshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	10-12 May 2016 and 29 August 2017	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Longford Park (Site D073), Banbury, Oxfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	446941 239010	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Sara-Jane Boughton and Liam Wilson	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.):	Content:
Physical	Oxfordshire Museums Service/ OXCMS: 2017.139	N/A
Paper	Oxfordshire Museums Service/ OXCMS: 2017.139	Trench recording forms, digital photographic register
Digital	Oxfordshire Museums Service/ OXCMS: 2017.139	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Longford Park (Site D073), Banbury, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 17540		



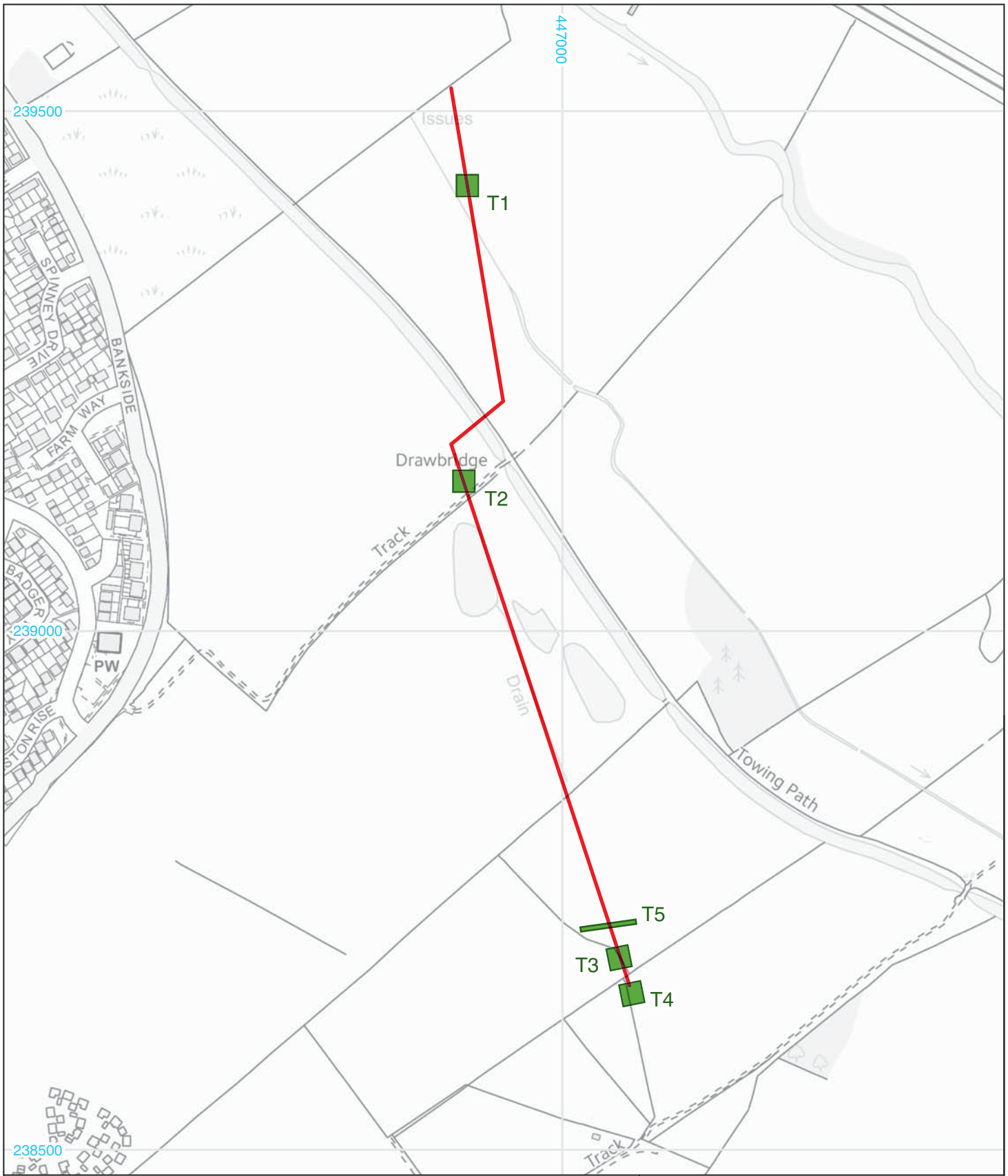
Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Longford Park (Site D073), Banbury, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY EE	PROJECT NO. 6272	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 11/09/2017	
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- Water main route
- Area of observed groundworks



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
 Longford Park (Site D073), Banbury, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of groundworks

DRAWN BY EE	PROJECT NO. 6272	FIGURE NO. 2
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 11/09/2017	
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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