

Cotswold Archaeology

Land South of Victoria Road Warminster Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for EDP Ltd.

on behalf of Persimmon Homes (Wessex)

> CA Project: 770526 CA Report: 17731

> > December 2017



Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

Land South of Victoria Road Warminster Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land South of Victoria Road
Location:	Warminster, Wiltshire
NGR:	385499 144674
Туре:	Evaluation
Date:	4-7 December 2017
Planning Reference:	16/01323/MAS
Location of Archive:	Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Site Code:	VRD17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2017 at Land South of Victoria Road, Warminster, Wiltshire. Eight trenches were excavated.

The evaluation confirmed that the results of the geophysical survey, which had indicated the presence of a number of linear's across site, were most likely geological in nature. A number of flints, and prehistoric, and Roman pottery, were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil during the course of the evaluation but these were residual in nature and are likely be to evidence of transient seasonal activity rather than settlement within the site.

Where archaeology was encountered it consisted of a ditch and a posthole, with no associated features indicating that they were probably agricultural in nature.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for EDP Ltd. on behalf of Persimmon Homes (Wessex) at land south of Victoria Road, Warminster, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 385499 144674; Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken for a proposed residential scheme of 200 250 dwellings. The scheme will also include public open space, a play area, landscaping/green infrastructure, ecological mitigation and sustainable urban drainage. It is proposed that this development scheme will contribute towards the overall approved masterplan for the West Warminster Urban Extension (16/01323/MAS).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014) It was monitored by Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service including a site visit on the 6th of December 2017.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 9.4ha, and comprises two large arable fields, two small fallow parcels and modern agricultural outbuildings associated with Bugley Barton Farm, which lies immediately north of the site, on Victoria Road. Mature hedgerow boundaries with occasional mature trees enclose the site from the south, west and east, whilst residential back plots and Victoria Road form the northern boundary. A public right of way traverses the eastern field of the site, on a roughly north east to south west axis. The land within the site gently rises westwards from *c*.135m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the east to *c*.145m aOD in the west.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as predominantly sedimentary bedrock of the Boyne Hollow Chert Member. A small area of Shaftesbury Sandstone Member is present in the south-east corner of the site. There are no superficial deposits recorded anywhere within the site (BGS 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background of the site has been examined in detail in an Archaeological and Historic Assessment (EDP 2016) for the site and only a succinct summary is presented here.
- 2.2 There are no prehistoric archaeological remains known from within the site, however a small, 'finely made' Lower Palaeolithic hand axe was discovered *c*. 260m west of the site in 2002. Two Neolithic axe heads were found *c*. 530m south east and *c*. 770m east of the site. Field walking immediately north of Victoria Road in 2012, recovered one sherd of prehistoric pottery and forty-nine pieces of worked flint, which represents prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site, but was deemed unlikely to be related to settlement activity. A Scheduled Monument, Cley Hill Iron Age Hillfort is located *c*. 1km west of the site, however the only Iron Age find discovered closer to the site (*c*. 440m west) was a single find of a copper coin.
- 2.3 There are no Romano-British archaeological remains known from within the site, however seven coins of that date were reportedly found by metal detectorists in a field immediately south of the site. Romano-British coins, buckles, brooches, rings, stone tile and pottery fragments have been recorded *c*. 460m west of the site, equidistant between Cley Hill and the A36. The presence of stone tile has indicated at least one building, with a strong suggestion (based on finds) that a settlement site is present in the immediate vicinity. The fieldwalking undertaken immediately north of the site, recovered seven sherds of Romano-British pottery, whilst field walking in 2009 to the south of Cold Harbour Lane, *c*. 650m north-east of the site, recovered 'very large quantities of pottery', including some of Romano-British date.
- 2.4 No archaeological remains of early medieval date are known from within the site. The earliest reference to a settlement at Warminster is from the early 10th century, at which time, Warminster was a royal manor which lay on the edge of the great forest of Selwood. The site is most likely located outside the early-medieval extent of Warminster.
- 2.5 The Domesday Survey of 1086 described a large rural manor with extensive arable holdings and several mills at Warminster. During the medieval period there was a large expansion of the town from the original Saxon settlement. By the 14th century,

Warminster had a flourishing wool industry, with fulling and dying occurring across the Wylye valley. The medieval settlement of Bugley was possibly located within the site. It is first referenced in 1236 as Buggele. The precise location of the medieval settlement is unknown, and in the absence of any intrusive archaeological investigation or corroborating physical evidence, the record is considered to be of limited value. The area within the 1km-radius from the site produced a number of medieval finds, including an extensive pottery scatter, recovered during fieldwalking in the north east of the study area in 2009, at Cold Harbour Lane. The spread covered at least 8ha and comprised late medieval and post-medieval pottery, slag and glass. Initial interpretation was that the area comprised a dumping ground or industrial site through the periods, however the subsequent geophysical survey revealed no subsurface features to associate with this material. It is likely that the concentration of finds is the result of medieval manuring or importation within the made ground from off-site.

2.6 A geophysical survey of the site was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd in October 2016 (AS 2016). The survey located a number of poorly defined linear, curvilinear and discrete responses of unknown origin across the site. A number of formerly mapped field boundaries, land drains and furrows were also located, however, there was no suggestion of a settlement anywhere within the survey areas.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are 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 the Wiltshire Council 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 8 trenches (30m long and 1.8m wide), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 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. 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 Wiltshire Heritage 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 (FIGURES 2-5)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 5.2 **Trenches 1, 4, 6, 7** and **8** contained no archaeology. Archaeological features within the other trenches (**Trenches 2, 3** and **5**) included postholes and ditches.

5.3 The natural sequence varied across the site. There was a mixed geology that varied across site, with outcrops of green sand and sandstone. Descriptions of the geology can be found in Appendix A. The geology was overlain by a subsoil and topsoil in every trench, with the depths varying between 0.18 and 0.69m.

Trench 2 (Figures 2 & 3)

5.4 **Trench 2** contained a posthole. Posthole **203** was between 0.29m and 0.32 wide and 0.08m deep. It was circular in plan with moderate convex sides and a concave base. It was filled by **204**. Flint flakes were recovered from the fill of the posthole.

Trench 3 (Figures 2 & 4)

5.5 **Trench 3** contained a single ditch/furrow. Ditch **303** was 2.08m in length, 1.47m wide and 0.23m deep. It was linear in plan with straight sides and a concave base. It was filled by **304**.

Trench 5 (Figures 2 & 5)

5.5 **Trench 5** contained a single boundary ditch. Ditch 5**03** was 0.8m in length, 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep. It was linear in plan with moderate convex sides and a concave base. It was filled by 504.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below. All finds have been cleaned, quantified by material type in each context and recorded to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

Pottery

6.2 Five sherds (18g) of pottery were recovered from two deposits. Four bodysherds, occurring in a vesicular fabric, were recorded from subsoil **701** and are of prehistoric date. A single bodysherd of quartz-rich greyware was recovered from topsoil **100**, of broad Roman dating.

Other finds

6.3 Four prehistoric worked flint items (40g) were recovered from two deposits. All are flakes, which cannot be closely dated. The two flakes recovered from topsoil **100** feature multiple removals.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation confirmed that the results of the geophysical survey, which had indicated the presence of a number of linear's across site, were actually bands of natural and therefore geological in nature.
- 7.2 A number of flints, and prehistoric pottery, were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil during the course of the evaluation but these were residual in nature and are likely be to evidence of transient seasonal activity rather than settlement within the site. A flint flake was also found within the fill of the posthole in **Trench 2**. A single bodysherd of residual Roman greyware was recovered from the topsoil of **Trench 1**.
- 7.2 Archaeology from the site consisted solely of a ditch and a posthole, with no other associated features indicating that they were probably agricultural in nature. The possible ditch/furrow in **Trench 3** is almost certainly non-archaeological in nature, conforming as it did to the combine harvester tramways that ran across the site.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Bush, assisted by Tony Brown and Jon Dobbie. The report was written by Ray Kennedy. The finds reports were written by Katie Marsden. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

9. REFERENCES

AS (Archaeological Surveys), 2016, Bugley Barton Farm, Warminster, Wiltshire: Magnetometer Survey Report, AS Report No. J692

- BGS (British Geological Survey), 2017, Geology of Britain Viewer http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html Accessed 7 December 2017
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- Webster, C. J., (ed.), 2007, South West Archaeological Research Framework: Resource Assessment and Research Agenda, Somerset County Council

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Туре	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
					Dark greyish-brown loose			
					silty clay, with abundant,			
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	sub-angular flint inclusions Mid greyish brown friable	49	1.85	0-0.21
					sandy clay with sub-angular			
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	flint inclusions	49	1.85	0.21-0.35
					Mixed geology, Light brownish green sandy clay			
					with patches of light			
					brownish yellow clayey			
					sand and brownish orange sandy clay, with angular			
1	102	Layer		Natural	sandstone inclusions	49	1.85	0.35+
					Dark greyish-brown loose			
2	200	1		Tanaail	silty clay, with abundant,	F 4	1.05	0.0.10
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	sub-angular flint inclusions Mid reddish brown friable	54	1.85	0-0.18
					sandy clay with sub-angular			
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	flint inclusions	54	1.85	0.18-0.69
					Mixed geology, light greenish brown sandy clay			
					with patches of brownish			
					green sand and reddish			
2	202	Layer		Natural	brown silty clay	54	1.85	0.69+
					Circular in plan with moderate sides and a flat			
2	203	Cut		Cut of Posthole	base	0.29	0.32	0.08
2	204	F :11	202	Fill of Dooth als	Mid brownish grey sandy	0.20	0.22	0.00
2	204	Fill	203	Fill of Posthole	clay Linear in plan with irregular	0.29	0.32	0.08
					sides and a concave base.			
2	205	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Most likely geological	1	1.14	0.35
2	206	Fill	205	Fill of Ditch	Mid brownish grey clayey sand	1	1.14	0.35
2	200	1.00	205	Thi of Diteri	Dark greyish-brown loose	1	1.14	0.55
					silty clay, with abundant,			
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	sub-angular flint inclusions Mid greyish brown friable	50	1.85	0-0.27
					sandy SILT with sub-angular			
					flint and sandstone			
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	inclusions	50	1.85	0.27-0.52
					Light brownish green clayey sand with patches of light			
					reddish brown sandy clay,			
2	202			No. 1	with angular sandstone	50	4.05	0.52
3	302	Layer		Natural	inclusions Linear in plan with straight	50	1.85	0.52+
3	303	Cut		Cut of Linear	sides and a concave base	2.08	1.47	0-0.23
	204				Dark reddish-brown	2.00	0.00	0.10
3	304	Fill	303	Fill of Linear	compact silty clay Mid brownish green friable	2.08	0.89	0.13
					sandy silt with sub-angular			
3	305	Fill	303	Fill of Linear	sandstone inclusions	2.08	1.29	0.22
					Dark greyish-brown loose			
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	silty clay, with abundant, sub-angular flint inclusions	52	1.85	0-0.25
-	1				Dark reddish brown friable			
		1.			sandy clay with sub-angular			
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	flint inclusions	52	1.85	0.25-0.50

					Mista light hypersish yest			
					Mid to light brownish red sandy clay with angular			
					sandstone inclusions, and			
4	402	Layer		Natural	possible paleo channel	52	1.85	0.50+
				Cut of land	Linear in plan with concave			
4	403	Cut		drain	sides and a concave base	1.85	0.59	0.27
					Mid reddish brown			
					compact silty clay with sub-			
4	404	Fill	403	Fill of land drain	angular sandstone	1.85	0.59	0.27
4	404	ГШ	405		inclusions Dark greyish-brown loose	1.65	0.59	0.27
					silty clay, with abundant,			
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	sub-angular flint inclusions	51	1.85	0-0.22
				·	Dark-Mid reddish brown			
					sandy clay with sub-angular			
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	flint inclusions	51	1.85	0.22-0.43
					Mig-light brownish red			
-	502	Lauran		Network	sandy clay with sub-angular	F 1	1.05	0.42
5	502	Layer		Natural	sandstone inclusions Linear in plan with convex	51	1.85	0.43+
5	503	Cut		Cut of Ditch	sides and a flat base	0.8	0.8	0.2
5	505	Cut		cut of Diteri	Mid reddish grey friable	0.0	0.0	0.2
5	504	Fill	503	Fill of Ditch	sandy clay	0.8	0.8	0.2
					Dark greyish-brown loose			
					clayey silt, with abundant,			
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	sub-angular flint inclusions	50	1.85	0-0.24
					Mid-light yellowish brown			
					friable sandy clay with sub-			
c	601	Lover		Subsoil	angular sandstone	50	1 05	0.24.0.62
6	601	Layer		Subsoli	inclusions Light brownish green sandy	50	1.85	0.24-0.63
					loam with patches of light			
					reddish brown sandy clay,			
					with angular sandstone			
6	602	Layer		Natural	inclusions	50	1.85	0.63+
					Dark greyish-brown loose			
_					clayey silt, with abundant,			
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	sub-angular flint inclusions	50	1.85	0-0.3
					Mid-light yellowish brown friable sandy clay with sub-			
					angular sandstone			
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	inclusions	50	1.85	0.3-0.55
					Light reddish brown sandy			
					clay with rare sandstone			
7	702	Layer		Natural	inclusions	50	1.85	0.55+
_					Mid greyish green loamy			
7	703	Layer		Natural	sand with no inclusions	50	1.85	0.55+
					Reddish brown sandy clay with abundant sandstone			
7	704	Layer		Natural	inclusions	50	1.85	0.55+
-			1		Dark greyish-brown loose		1.00	
					clayey silt, with abundant,			
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	sub-angular flint inclusions	50	1.85	0-0.28
					Mid-light yellowish brown			
			1		friable sandy clay with sub-			
			1	C h s s'l	angular sandstone	50	4.05	0.00.0.0
8	801	Layer	+	Subsoil	inclusions	50	1.85	0.28-0.6
			1		Light reddish brown sandy clay with rare sandstone			
8	802	Layer		Natural	inclusions	50	1.85	0.60+
0	002	Layer		Nuturai	Mid greyish green loamy	50	1.05	0.001
8	803	Layer	1	Natural	sand with no inclusions	50	1.85	0.60+
-	500				Reddish brown sandy clay			
			1		with abundant sandstone			
8	804	Layer		Natural	inclusions	50	1.85	0.60+

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: finds concord

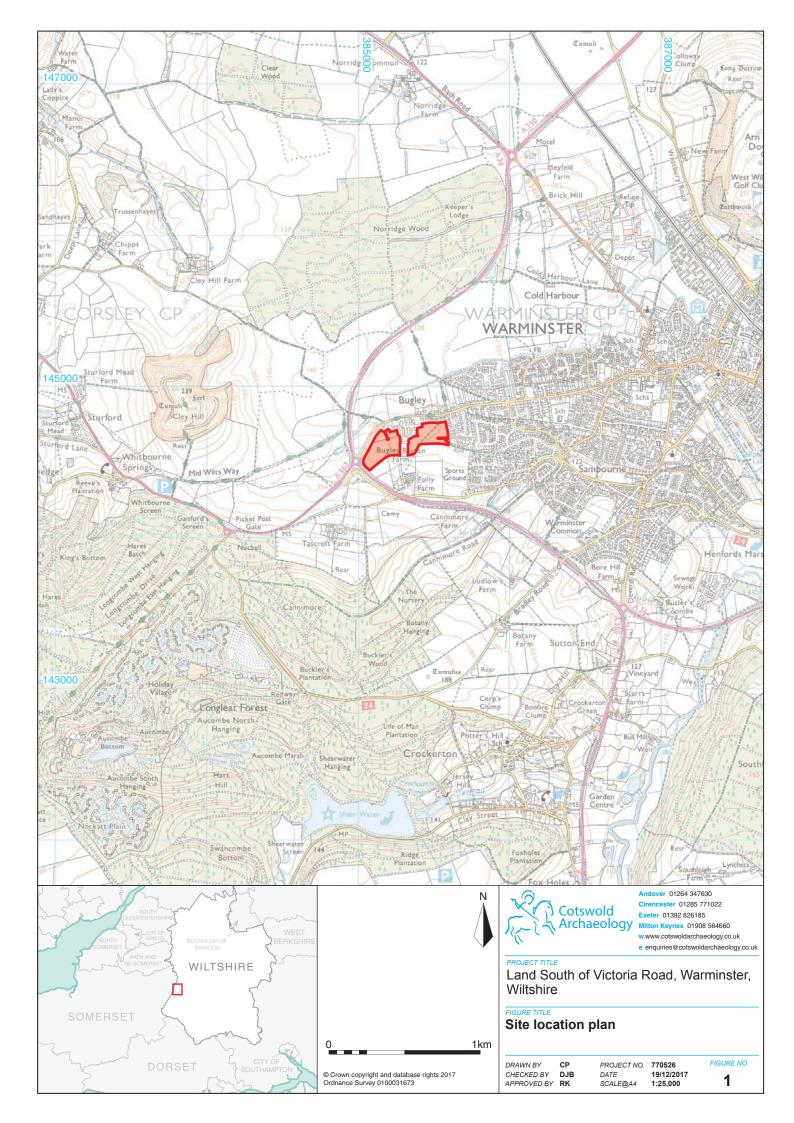
Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
100	Flint	flakes with multiple removals	2	31	
	Pottery	quartz-tempered	1	11	RB
204	Flint	flakes	2	9	
701	Pottery	vesicular fabric	4	7	Lpre

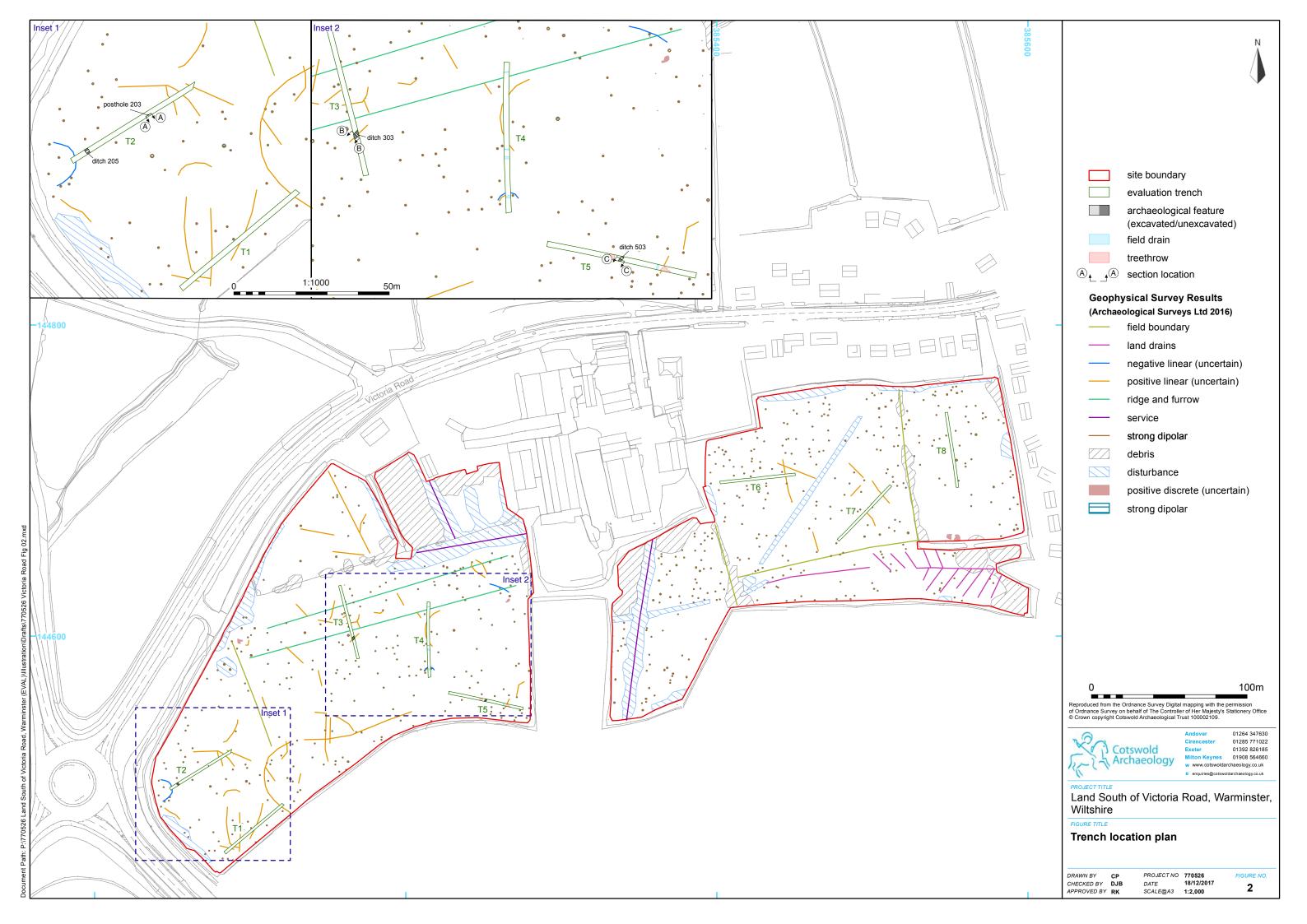
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

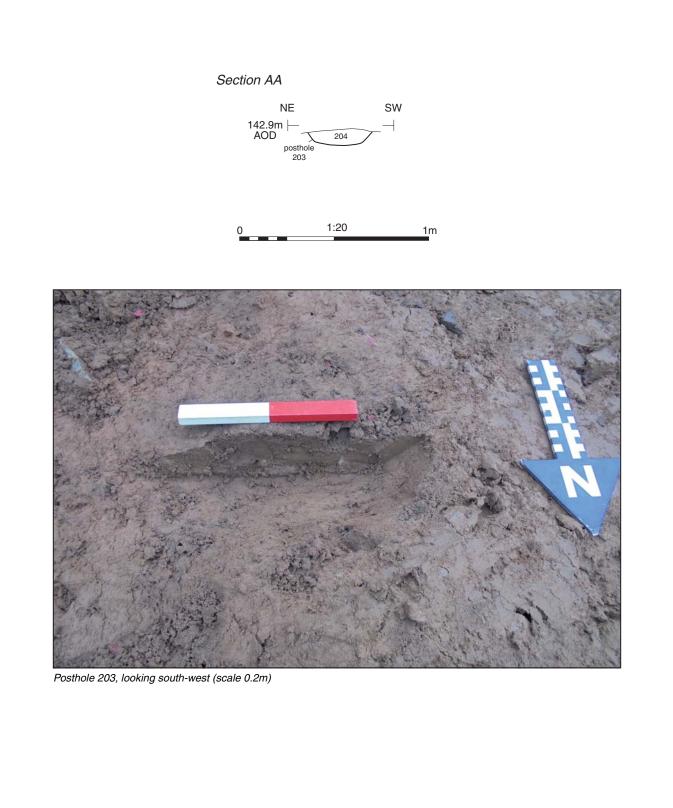
PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name	Land South of Victoria Road, Warminster	, Wiltshire
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was u Archaeology in December 2017 at Lan Warminster, Wiltshire. Eight trenches we	d South of Victoria Road,
	The evaluation confirmed that the re- survey, which had indicated the presen- across site, were most likely geologica flints, and prehistoric, and Roman potter topsoil and subsoil during the course o were residual in nature and are likely b seasonal activity rather than settlement w	ce of a number of linear's il in nature. A number of y, were recovered from the f the evaluation but these e to evidence of transient
	Where archaeology was encountered it posthole, with no associated features probably agricultural in nature.	
Project dates	4-7 December 2017	
Project type	field evaluation	
Previous work	AS (Archaeological Surveys), 2016, Warminster, Wiltshire: Magnetometer S No. J692	
	EDP (Environmental Dimension Partners Victoria Road, Warminster. Tech Archaeological and Heritage Assess EDP3431_04	nnical Appendix 11.1:
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land South of Victoria Road, Warminster	, Wiltshire
Study area (M ² /ha)	9.4ha	·
Site co-ordinates	385499 144674	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor MONUMENT TYPE	Steve Bush	
	None	
	None	Orantant (a a mattern
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		ceramics,
Paper		Context sheets, matrices
Digital		Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		· · · ·

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 Land South of Victoria Road, Warminster, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript report **17731**

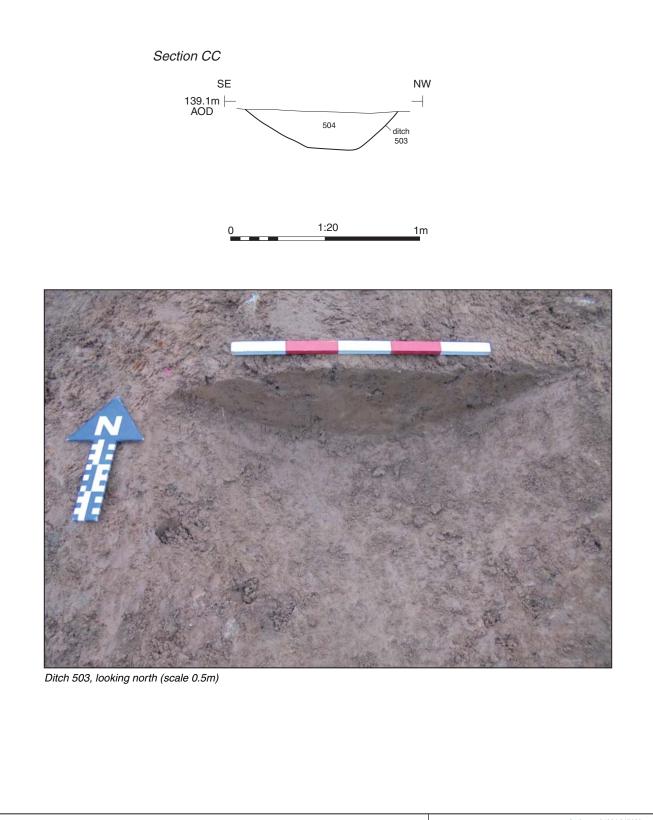






Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 826185 Milton Keynes 01908 564600 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
PROJECT TITLE Land South of Victoria Road, Warminster, Wiltshire
FIGURE TITLE Trench 2: section and photograph
DRAWN BY CP PROJECT NO. 770526 FIGURE NO. CHECKED BY DJB DATE 18/12/2017 APPROVED BY RK SCALE@A4 1:20 3





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Land South of Victoria Road, Warminster, Wiltshire
FIGURE TITLE Trench 5: section and photograph
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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

