

**Land at Bailey Lodge, Royal Agricultural University
Cirencester
Gloucestershire**
Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Ridge and Partners LLP

on behalf of
Royal Agricultural University

CA Project: 6226
CA Report: 17663

July 2018



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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	7 July 2018	Noel Boothroyd	Ian Barnes	Internal review	Client comment	
B	7 July 2018	Noel Boothroyd	Ian Barnes	Issue	Submission	TBC

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

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:500)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Bailey Lodge, Royal Agricultural University
Location: Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR: 400900 201370
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 28-29 September, 2 and 9 October 2017
Planning Reference: Cotswold District Council ref 17/00276/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with the Corinium Museum, Cirencester
Site Code: RAUG 17

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with new office buildings and associated infrastructure at Bailey Lodge, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September and October 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Ridge and Partners LLP, on behalf of the Royal Agricultural University (RAU), at Bailey Lodge, RAU, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 400900 201370; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil Condition 4 of a planning consent for new office buildings and associated infrastructure granted by Cotswold District Council (CDC) (planning ref: 17/00276/FUL).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council, archaeological advisor to CDC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.9ha in extent, and comprises an area of meadows at the eastern extent of the main campus of the RAU. The site lies at approximately 135m AOD, and is flat.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble Formation of the Jurassic Period. No superficial deposits are noted (BGS 2018). The natural geological substrate encountered during the watching brief comprised clayey silt with limestone inclusions.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been subject to Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA; TVAS 2017). The following is a brief summary of that document.
- 2.2 Prehistoric evidence includes locations within the wider RAU campus, though none within the site itself. One hundred metres to the southwest of the site, geophysical survey and evaluation identified the presence of a number of discrete features and

ditches of probable prehistoric origin. Three hundred metres further south of this, prehistoric activity was confirmed following investigation of a ditch and trackway from which Iron Age pottery was recovered (TVAS 2017).

2.3 Investigation of the RAU campus has also identified a number of Roman and later quarry pits. Such features are also noted to extend into the nearby Cirencester Hospital site (*ibid* 2017).

2.4 Evidence pertaining to post medieval activity primarily relates to Cirencester Park (a Grade I Registered Park), which was established in the 19th century immediately to the north of the site. Additional archaeological assets confirm the presence of field systems and boundaries to the east of the site (*ibid* 2017).

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 a topsoil strip; see Fig. 2 for location and extent.

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. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited

with the Corinium Museum, Cirencester. 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 The natural geological substrate 101, a clayey silt with limestone inclusions, was observed throughout the stripped area at a typical depth of 0.2m below present ground level. This was overlain by turf and topsoil 100.

5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

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

6.2 The absence of subsoil and artefacts of any date suggests the area has been subject to truncation. It is possible that the truncation is related to Cirencester Park, but the absence of dating evidence precludes a definitive conclusion.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Noel Boothroyd, Hazel O'Neill, and Jess Stevens. The report was written by Noel Boothroyd. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 28 March 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Land at Bailey Lodge, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

TVAS (Thames Valley Archaeological Trust) 2017 *Land at Bailey Lodge, Royal Agricultural University, Stroud Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for Royal Agricultural University TVAS Site Code **RAU 17/09***

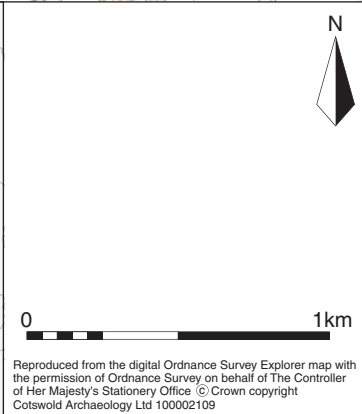
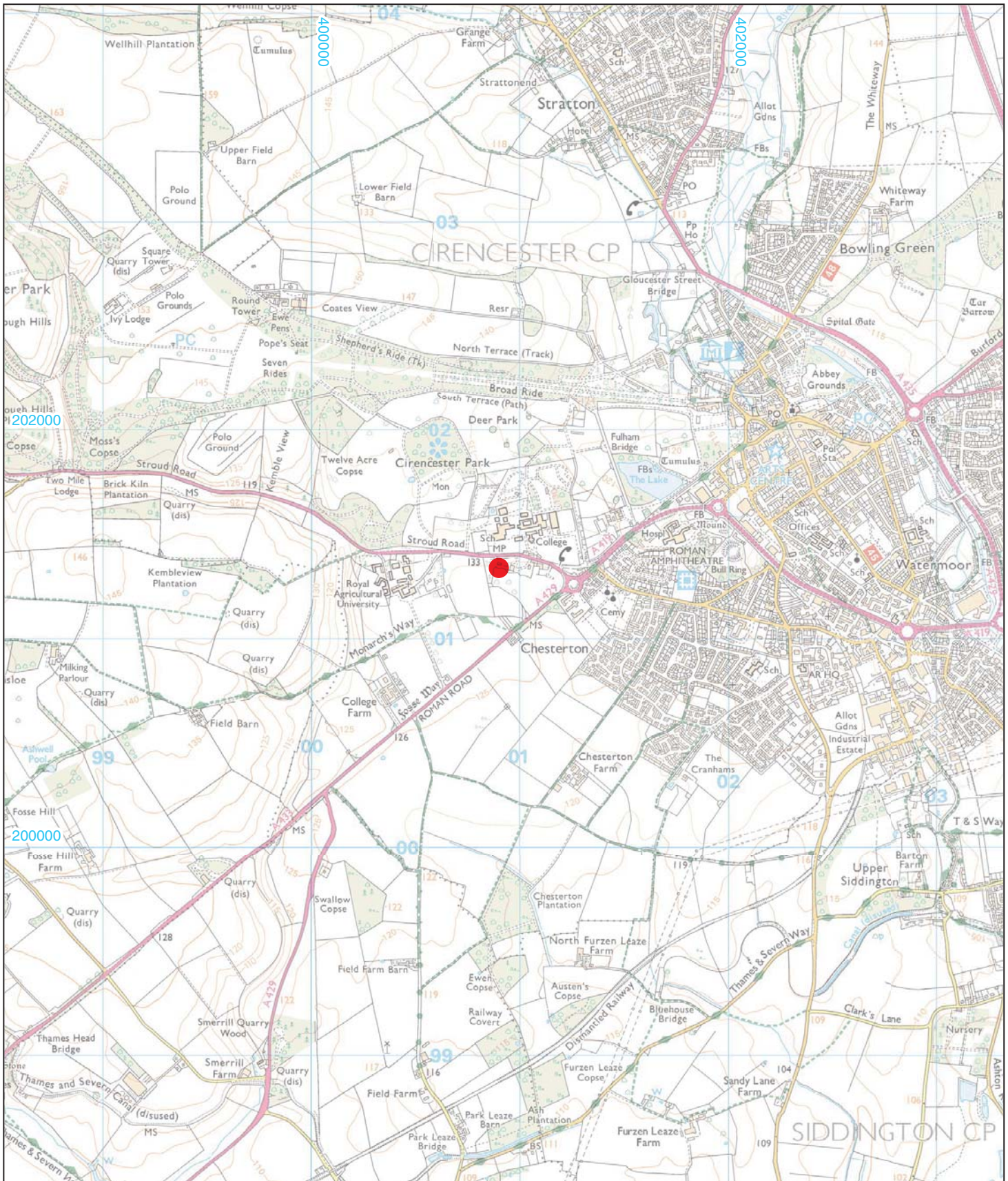


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt			0.17	
1	101	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid brown clayey silt				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Bailey Lodge, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with new office buildings and associated infrastructure at Bailey Lodge, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	28-29 September, 2 and 9 October 2017	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Royal Agricultural University, Stroud Rd., Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.9ha	
Site co-ordinates	400900 201370	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation		
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Noel Boothroyd, Hazel O'Neill, Jess Stevens	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		N/A
Paper	The Corinium Museum, Cirencester	Trench record sheet
Digital	The Corinium museum, Cirencester	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land at Bailey Lodge, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological watching brief</i>. CA typescript report 17663</p>		



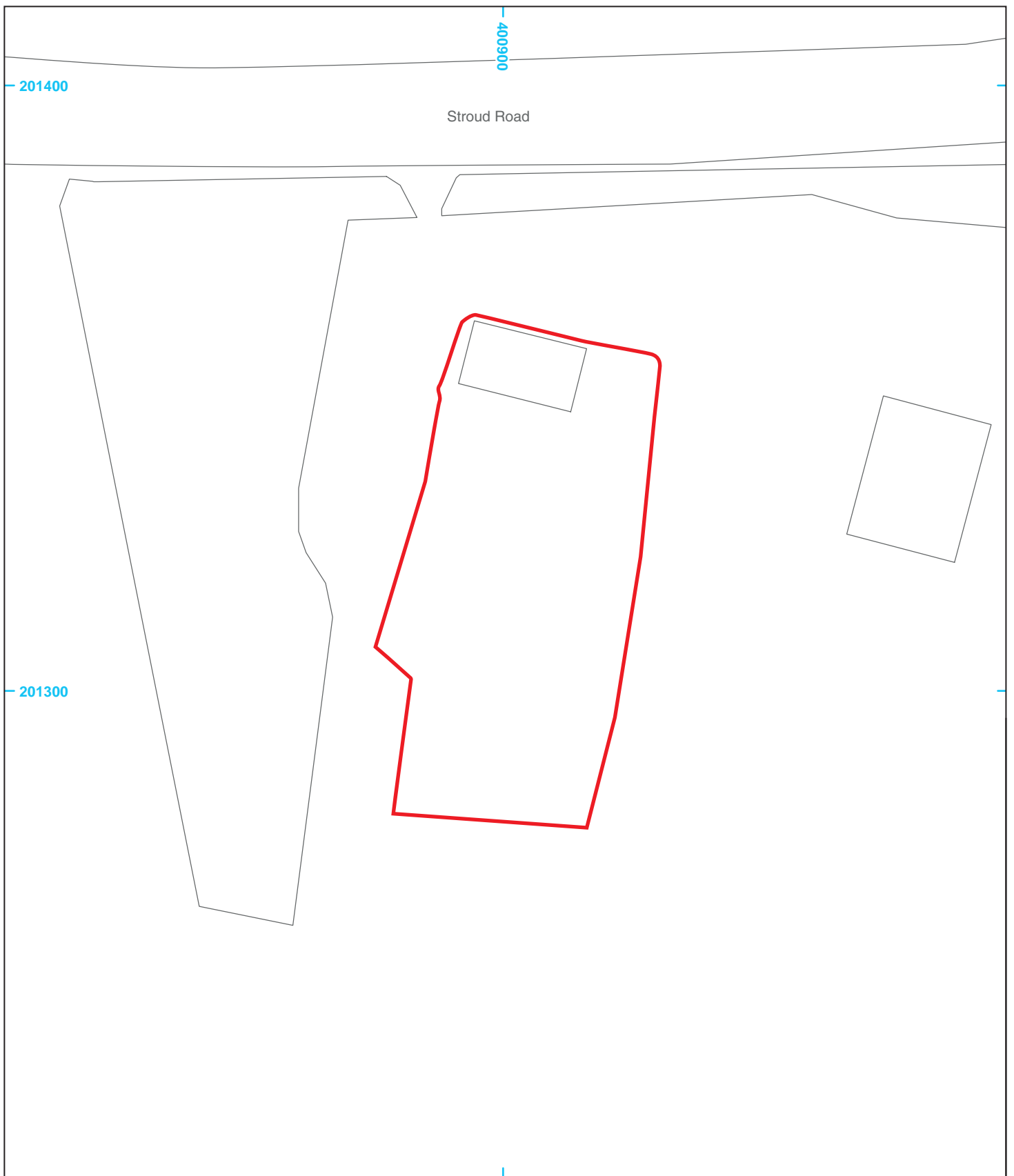



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Bailey Lodge, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY CP	PROJECT NO. 6226	FIGURE NO. 1
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 17/11/2017	
APPROVED BY IB	SCALE @A4 1:25,000	



 area of observed groundworks



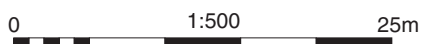
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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Bailey Lodge, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Approximate location of watching brief area



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