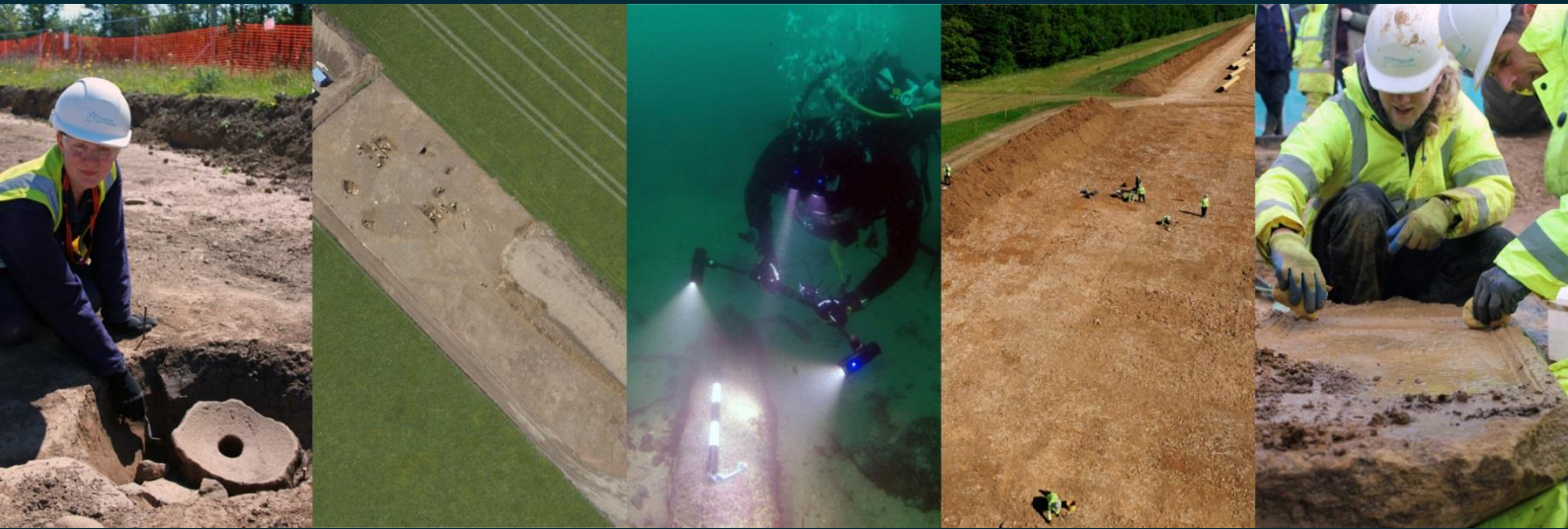


# Land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West Cepen Way Chippenham Wiltshire

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*



*for*  
Walsingham Planning

*on behalf of*  
Kirk Bryson & Co Limited

CA Project: 6612  
CA Report: 18351

September 2018



Land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West Cepen Way  
Chippenham  
Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 6612  
CA Report: 18351



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	3 September 2018	Sara-Jayne Boughton	Ian Barnes	Internal review	Client comment	Cliff Bateman

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West Cepen Way
<b>Location:</b>	Chippenham, Wiltshire
<b>NGR:</b>	389773 172022
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	5 July 2018
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	Wiltshire Council ref 17/09780/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Chippenham Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	BRWC 18

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in advance of the erection of a fast food outlet on land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West Cepen Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks and no artefactual material was recovered. A natural gravel deposit was present in one trench and alluvial build up was identified to the north of site in trenches adjacent to Pudding Brook.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Walsingham Planning, on behalf of Kirk Bryson & Co Limited, on land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West Cepen Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 389773 172022; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Planning permission for the erection of fast food outlets with associated access, parking and landscaping was granted by Wiltshire Council (WC; planning ref: 17/09780/FUL, condition 14), conditional on a programme of archaeological work being completed. Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist, WC) has advised that the programme of work will initially comprise this watching brief during the course of a Site Investigation.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out following consultation with Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, WC and in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).

### **The site**

- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 1ha in extent and comprises unmanaged coarse grassland divided by Pudding Brook. The site is bounded to the north by the A4 bath Road, to the east by Brookside Retail Park, a byway to the south and to the west by the A350, West Cepen Way. The site lies at approximately 60m AOD and is relatively flat.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Clay Member Mudstone of the Jurassic Period with superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvium present within the northern half of the site (BGS 2018). Limestone brash was observed predominantly in the central and southern extant of the site, with silty clay being identified largely in the northern area.



## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background and potential of the site and its environs is well documented with extensive prehistoric and Roman archaeology located near the site. Several archaeological works have been undertaken within the immediate vicinity and the results of these are summarised below.
- 2.2 Archaeological works (comprising both excavation and watching brief observations) were undertaken immediately west of the site along a 1.9km section of the Chippenham Western Bypass between the A4 and A350. Prehistoric activity consisted of a distinct cluster of ephemeral pits, gullies and stakeholes, from which a small assemblage of Bronze Age artefacts (including pottery and worked flint) were recovered. Although no structural remains or habitational features were found during the excavation, the quantity of domestic waste within the assemblages suggests the excavation area is on the periphery of a main settlement site. Lithic material retrieved during the watching brief comprised 106 pieces of unstratified flint suggesting a general level of Mesolithic, Neolithic and/or Bronze Age activity within the immediate vicinity.
- 2.3 Evidence of Roman activity was restricted to two ditches revealed at the northern limit of the new bypass, north-west of the current site. The ditches confirmed that Roman agricultural activity, previously identified to the north, continued to the south of Pudding Brook (Bateman and Enright 2000).
- 2.4 Archaeological observation during construction of the Sainsbury's store to the north of the A4 identified a Neolithic pit (Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (WHER) ref ST87SE100) and an assemblage of Mesolithic worked flint (WHER ST87SE052); a Roman coin and an undated ditch (WHER ST87SE304) were recorded from a pipeline trench south of Derriad's Farm (now McDonald's restaurant site), again to the north of the A4.
- 2.5 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken approximately 150m to the south of the current site, which uncovered no archaeological remains (CA 2011).
- 2.6 An archaeological evaluation of an area enclosing part of the current site and the area directly to the south did not identify any archaeological remains (CA 2013).

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the watching brief 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 watching brief* (ClfA 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 followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2018). An archaeologist monitored the excavation of 12 trenches, each measuring 5m long and 1.8m wide (Fig. 2). The trenches were surveyed using Leica GPS 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 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.4 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 Wiltshire Museum. 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 2-5)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; a detailed summary of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The natural clay substrate was revealed in the northern extent of the site in Trenches 2-6 at a typical depth of 0.6m below present ground level (bpgl). Within these trenches this was overlain by up to 0.35m of mid yellowish brown clayey silt deposit which was in turn covered by up to 0.40m of topsoil (Fig. 3). Trench 1 was excavated to 2.70m in depth and exposed the natural geological substrate comprising brash, gravel and clay (102), which was overlain by modern overburden material, 101. This was in turn covered by topsoil, 100.
- 5.3 In the southern extent of site, the natural comprised limestone brash revealed at a typical depth of 0.30m bpgl (as illustrated by observations within Trench 9; Fig. 5). In Trench 7 this was overlain by light brownish yellow clay deposit with frequent gravel, 702, which was in turn covered by topsoil (Fig. 4). In all other trenches, natural substrate was only overlain by topsoil typically 0.40m in thickness.
- 5.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains.
- 8.2 The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that remains associated with the known prehistoric and Roman activity to the north and west do not extend as far as the site, or that they may have been removed during groundworks associated with the retail development immediately east of the site. These groundworks may also account for the significant overburden recorded in Trench 1.
- 8.3 Trenches 2-6 were located adjacent to Pudding Brook. It is possible that the variations in deposits overlying the natural substrate are associated with this watercourse.



## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sara-Jayne Boughton, assisted by Holly Young. The report was written by Sara-Jayne Boughton. The illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. 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) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 6 July 2018

Bateman, C. and Enright, D. 2000 'Excavations of Bronze Age and Romano-British sites along the Chippenham Western Bypass A4 to A350 link', *Wiltshire Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.* **93**, 233-8

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Turnpike House, Methuen Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CA typescript report **11240**

CA 2013 *Land at Methuen Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report **13415**

CA 2018 *Land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West Cepen Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*



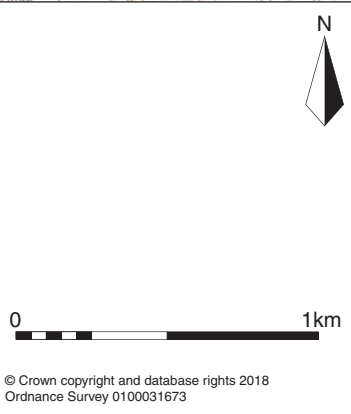
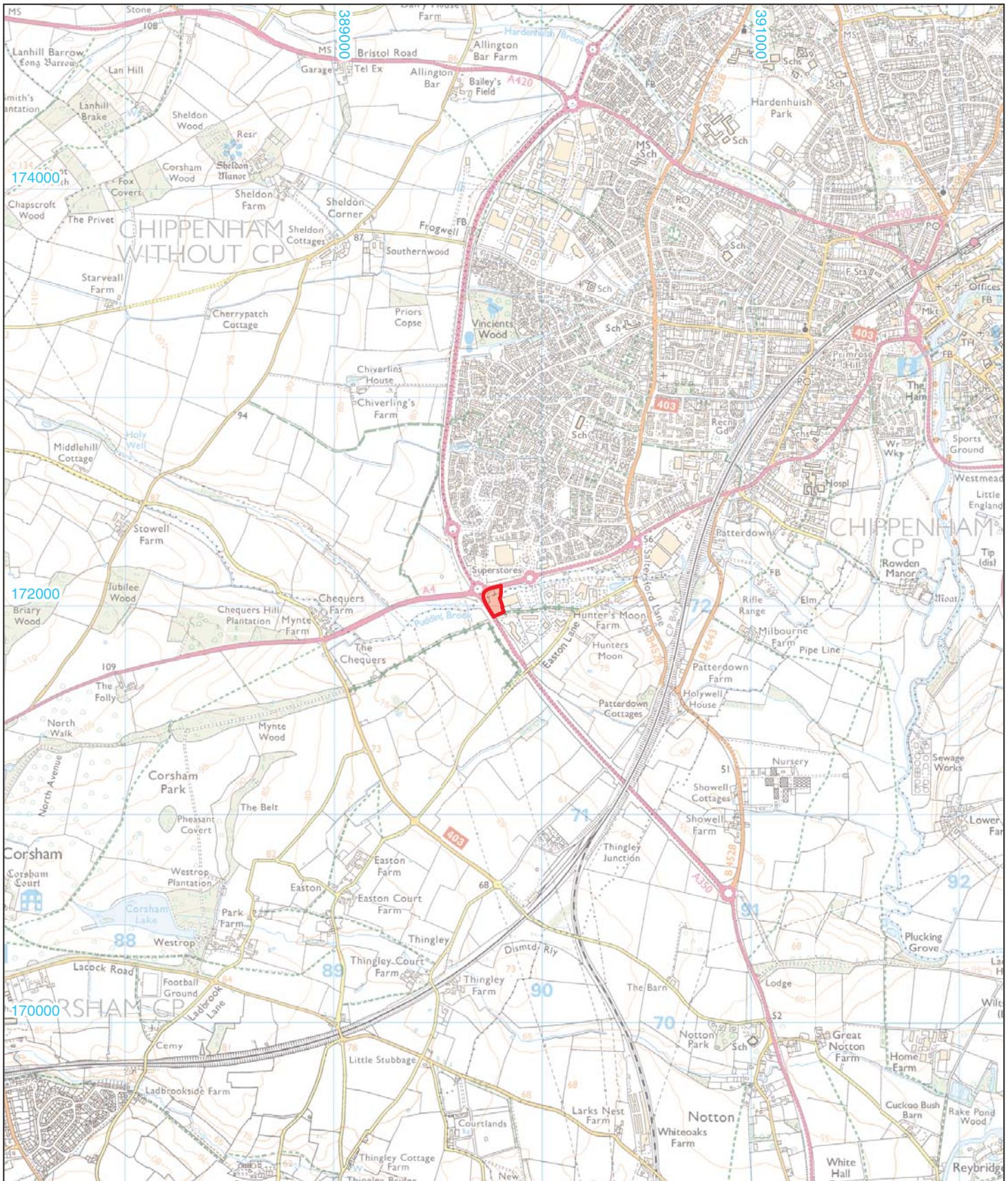
## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown silt, friable, humic, bioturbated, foliage on top	>5.0	>1.8	0.20
1	101	Deposit	Modern makeup	Mixed mid-light yellow-brown clay-silt, occasional limestone brash fragments and frequent redeposited natural mottling	>5.0	>1.8	1.30
1	102	Layer	Natural	Three layers – light yellow-white limestone brash, gravel, mid-light brown-yellow clay	>5.0	>1.8	>1.20
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown silt, friable, humic, bioturbated, foliage on top, waterlogged	>5.0	>1.8	0.29
2	201	Layer	Deposit	Mid-light yellow-brown clay-silt, friable, heavy bioturbation	>5.0	>1.8	0.34
2	202	Layer	Natural	Mid-light brown-yellow clay, compact, occasional limestone brash fragment	>5.0	>1.8	-
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown silt, friable, humic, bioturbated, foliage on top, waterlogged	>5.0	>1.8	0.25
3	301	Layer	Deposit	Mid-light yellow-brown clay-silt, friable, heavy bioturbation	>5.0	>1.8	0.30
3	302	Layer	Natural	Mid-light brown-yellow clay, compact, occasional limestone brash fragment	>5.0	>1.8	-
4	400	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown silt, compact, humic, bioturbated, foliage on top	>5.0	>1.8	0.32
4	401	Layer	Deposit	Mid-light yellow-brown clay-silt, friable, sterile	>5.0	>1.8	0.18
4	402	Layer	Natural	Mid-light brown-yellow clay, compact, occasional limestone brash fragment	>5.0	>1.8	-
5	500	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown silt, compact, humic, bioturbated, foliage on top	>5.0	>1.8	0.25
5	501	Layer	Deposit	Mid-light yellow-brown clay-silt, Friable, sterile	>5.0	>1.8	0.35
5	502	Layer	Natural	Mid-light brown-yellow clay, compact, occasional limestone brash fragment	>5.0	>1.8	-
6	600	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown silt, compact, humic, bioturbated, foliage on top	>5.0	>1.8	0.40
6	601	Layer	Deposit	Mid-light yellow-brown clay-silt, Friable, sterile	>5.0	>1.8	0.16
6	602	Layer	Natural	Mid-light brown-yellow clay, compact, occasional limestone brash fragment, bioturbated	>5.0	>1.8	-
7	700	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown clay-silt, compact, humic, coarse grassland on top, bioturbated	>5.0	>1.8	0.33
7	701	Deposit	Alluvium	Mid-light brown-yellow silt-clay with gravel inclusions	>5.0	>1.8	0.27
7	702	Layer	Natural	Light yellow-white limestone brash	>5.0	>1.8	-
8	800	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown clay-silt, compact, humic, coarse grassland on top, bioturbated	>5.0	>1.8	0.32
8	801	Layer	Natural	Light yellow-white limestone brash	>5.0	>1.8	-
9	900	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown clay-silt, compact, humic, coarse grassland on top, bioturbated	>5.0	>1.8	0.31

9	901	Layer	Natural	Light yellow-white limestone brash	>5.0	>1.8	-
10	100	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown clay-silt, compact, humic, coarse grassland on top, bioturbated	>5.0	>1.8	0.18
10	1001	Layer	Natural	Light yellow-white limestone brash	>5.0	>1.8	-
11	1100	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown clay-silt, compact, humic, coarse grassland on top, bioturbated	>5.0	>1.8	0.40
11	1101	Layer	Natural	Light yellow-white limestone brash	>5.0	>1.8	-
12	1200	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown clay-silt, compact, humic, coarse grassland on top, bioturbated	>5.0	>1.8	0.25
12	1201	Layer	Natural	Light yellow-white limestone brash	>5.0	>1.8	-

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West Cepen Way	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during ground investigation associated with the erection of fast food outlets with accompanying access, parking and landscaping at land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West Cepen Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered. A natural gravel deposit was present in one trench and alluvial build up was identified to the north of site in trenches adjacent to Pudding Brook.</p>	
Project dates	6 July 2018	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Field Evaluation (CA 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Chippenham, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.94ha	
Site co-ordinates	389773 172022	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Sara-Jayne Boughton	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	None	None
Paper	Chippenham Museum	Trench recording sheets, photographic register
Digital	Chippenham Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West Cepen Way: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report <b>18351</b></p>		




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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West Cepen Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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DRAWN BY TB PROJECT NO. 6612 FIGURE NO. 1  
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- site boundary
- evaluation trench/excavation area
- previous evaluation trench
- modern



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at A4 Bath Road and A350, West Cepen Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan

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<b>CHECKED BY</b> DJB	<b>DATE</b> 11.07.18	<b>2</b>
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P:\6612 Land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West Cepen Way, Chippenham, Wils EVAL Illustration\Drafts\6612 West Cepen Way Fig 2.dwg



Trench 3, looking west (1m scales)



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West  
Cepen Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Trench 3: Photograph**

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*FIGURE NO.*

**3**



Trench 7, deposit 702, looking south (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West  
Cepen Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 7: Photograph**

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FIGURE NO.

**4**





Trench 9, looking north (1m scales)



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Land at A4 Bath Road and A350 West  
Cepen Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Trench 9: Photograph**

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<i>CHECKED BY</i>	<b>DJB</b>	<i>DATE</i>	<b>11.07.18</b>	
<i>APPROVED BY</i>	<b>IB</b>	<i>SCALE@A4</i>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>5</b>

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