

**Scholars Chase
Coldharbour Lane
Filton
South Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) Ltd

on behalf of
Taylor Wimpey

CA Project: 6755
CA Report: 18474

October 2018



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Summary

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Project Name: | Scholars Chase |
| Location: | Coldharbour Lane, Filton, South Gloucestershire |
| NGR: | 362640 177929 |
| Type: | Evaluation |
| Date: | 19 September 2018 |
| Planning Reference: | SGC; ref: PT14/1260/O |
| Location of Archive: | To be deposited with Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives |
| Site Code: | SCOF 18 |

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2018 at Scholars Chase, Coldharbour Lane, Filton, South Gloucestershire. Three trenches were excavated.

An undated ditch terminal was identified within the southern part of the site and very probably relates to a field boundary depicted on 18th-century historic mapping.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for the Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Taylor Wimpey at Scholars Chase, Coldharbour Lane, Filton, South Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 362640 177929; Fig. 1). Planning permission for a multi-phase, mixed residential and retail development of the site was granted by South Gloucestershire Council (SGC; ref: PT14/1260/O), conditional on a programme of archaeological works. This phase of archaeological work also relates to the Reserved Matters Application (PT18/0659) for the Phase 2 area in order to meet the archaeological requirements.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in discussion with Paul Driscoll, Archaeologist and Historic Environment Record (HER) Officer, SGC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Paul Driscoll. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The area subjected to evaluation is approximately 2.8ha in extent. It forms part of a larger site that comprises existing development, which bounds the evaluation area to the south and south-west. The site lies at approximately 78m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mercia Mudstone of the Triassic Period, with overlying loam and clay soils with impeded drainage (BGS 2018, Wardell Armstrong 2013). The natural substrate identified during the course of the evaluation consisted of light reddish-brown silty-clay.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site is described in two earlier Desk-Based Assessments (BaRAS 2008, Wardell Armstrong 2013), to which reference should be made for further detail. In summary, the site lies within a wider landscape within which Bronze Age pottery and worked flints have been found to the north, and which in the medieval period was likely characterised by nucleated

settlements with associated common (or shared) field systems (Wardell Armstrong 2013) and scattered pillow mounds (medieval rabbit warrens), such as those seen directly to the south-east of site (BaRAS 2008). Coldharbour Farm, to the north of the site, is recorded by 1540, and may have been the focus of an, as yet, undefined area of medieval settlement.

- 2.2 An archaeological evaluation was previously undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology on land directly to the south of the evaluation area (CA 2014). It identified a single post-medieval ditch which may represent a former field boundary pre-dating those depicted on 18th century historic mapping. No other archaeological features were revealed.

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* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable SGC 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 *Revised National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of three trenches, each measuring 30m long and 1.8m wide, in the locations shown 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*. 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 from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives. 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 can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate consisted of silty-clays that were revealed at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural substrate was sealed by subsoil, which was in turn sealed by modern topsoil. A field drain was locate in Trench 2.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

- 5.3 Ditch terminus 303/305 (Fig. 3, Section AA) was identified in the northern end of Trench 3. It appeared to be orientated east/west. It measured up to 1.03m in width and 0.38m in depth. It was sealed by subsoil 301 and extended beyond the limits of excavation to the west. It contained a sandy-silt fill, 304/306, from which no dateable artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation identified a single archaeological feature within the proposed development area, in the form of an undated ditch in Trench 3. The ditch correlates

closely to an east/west aligned field boundary depicted on Naston's 1725 Map of Stoke Gifford.

- 6.2 No other archaeological features were identified during the course of the evaluation, and the absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that any remains associated with wider prehistoric and medieval activities (see archaeological background above) either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the evaluation.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish, assisted by Jack Harrison. The report was written by Alex Thomson. The illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. The archive has been compiled by Sian Reynish, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

9. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 20 September 2018
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land at Coldharbour Lane, Stoke Gifford, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report **14428**
- CA 2018 *Scholars Chase, Coldharbour Lane, Filton, South Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
- GCC (Gloucestershire County Council) 2006 *The Old Vicarage, Sevenhampton: Brief for Archaeological Recording*
- MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) 2018 *Revised National Planning Policy Framework*

Wardell Armstrong 2013 31-36 Land on Coldharbour Lane, Stoke Gifford, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, Wardell Armstrong Report No. 10683

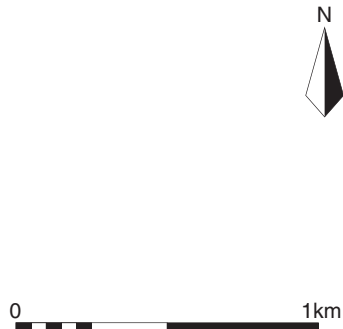
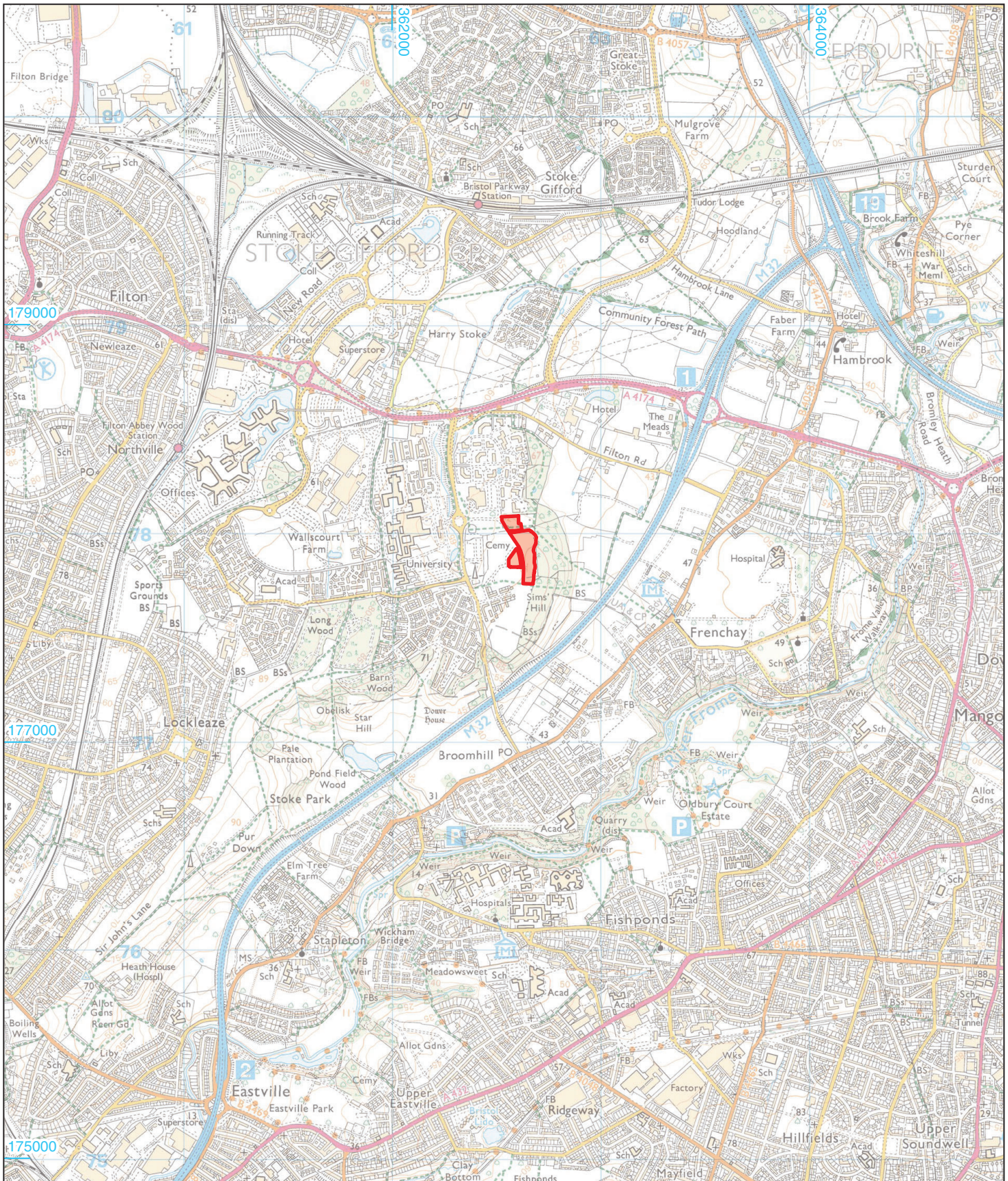


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type | Fill of | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | D (m) | Spot-date |
|------------|-------------|-------|---------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| 1 | 100 | Layer | | topsoil | Greyish-brown silty-clay | 30 | 1.8 | 0.25 | |
| 1 | 101 | Layer | | subsoil | Yellow-brown silty-clay | 30 | 1.8 | 0.05 | |
| 1 | 102 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Light reddish-brown silty-clay | 30 | 1.8 | | |
| 2 | 200 | Layer | | topsoil | Greyish-brown silty-clay | 30 | 1.8 | 0.22 | |
| 2 | 201 | Layer | | subsoil | Yellow-brown silty-clay | 30 | 1.8 | 0.08 | |
| 2 | 202 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Light reddish-brown silty-clay | 30 | 1.8 | | |
| 3 | 300 | Layer | | topsoil | Greyish-brown silty-clay | 30 | 1.8 | 0.32 | |
| 3 | 301 | Layer | | subsoil | Yellow-brown silty-clay | 30 | 1.8 | 0.39 | |
| 3 | 302 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Light reddish-brown silty-clay | 30 | 1.8 | | |
| 3 | 303 | Cut | | Ditch | E/W aligned linear with moderate sides and concave base | >1.4 | 1.03 | 0.38 | |
| 3 | 304 | Fill | 303 | Fill of ditch | Greyish-brown sandy-silt | >1.4 | 1.03 | 0.38 | |
| 3 | 305 | Cut | | Ditch terminus | E/W aligned rounded linear terminus | >0.48 | >0.44 | >0.21 | |
| 3 | 306 | Fill | 305 | Fill of ditch | Greyish-brown sandy-silt | >0.48 | >0.44 | >0.21 | |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Project Name | Scholars Chase, Coldharbour Lane, Filton, South Gloucestershire | |
| Short description | <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2018 at Scholars Chase, Coldharbour Lane, Filton, South Gloucestershire. Three trenches were excavated.</p> <p>An undated ditch terminal was identified within the southern part of the site and very probably relates to a field boundary depicted on 18th-century historic mapping.</p> | |
| Project dates | 19 September 2018 | |
| Project type | Field Evaluation | |
| Previous work | Desk-Based Assessments (BaRAS 2008, Wardell Armstrong 2013) Field evaluation (CA 2014) | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Coldharbour Lane, Filton, South Gloucestershire | |
| Study area | 2.8ha | |
| Site co-ordinates | 362640 177929 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Brief originator | South Gloucestershire Council | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Richard Young | |
| Project Supervisor | Sian Reynish | |
| MONUMENT TYPE | None | |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS | None | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive | Content |
| Physical | N/A | None |
| Paper | Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives | Site archive |
| Digital | Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives | Database, digital photos, etc. |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Scholars Chase, Coldharbour Lane, Filton, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 18474 | | |



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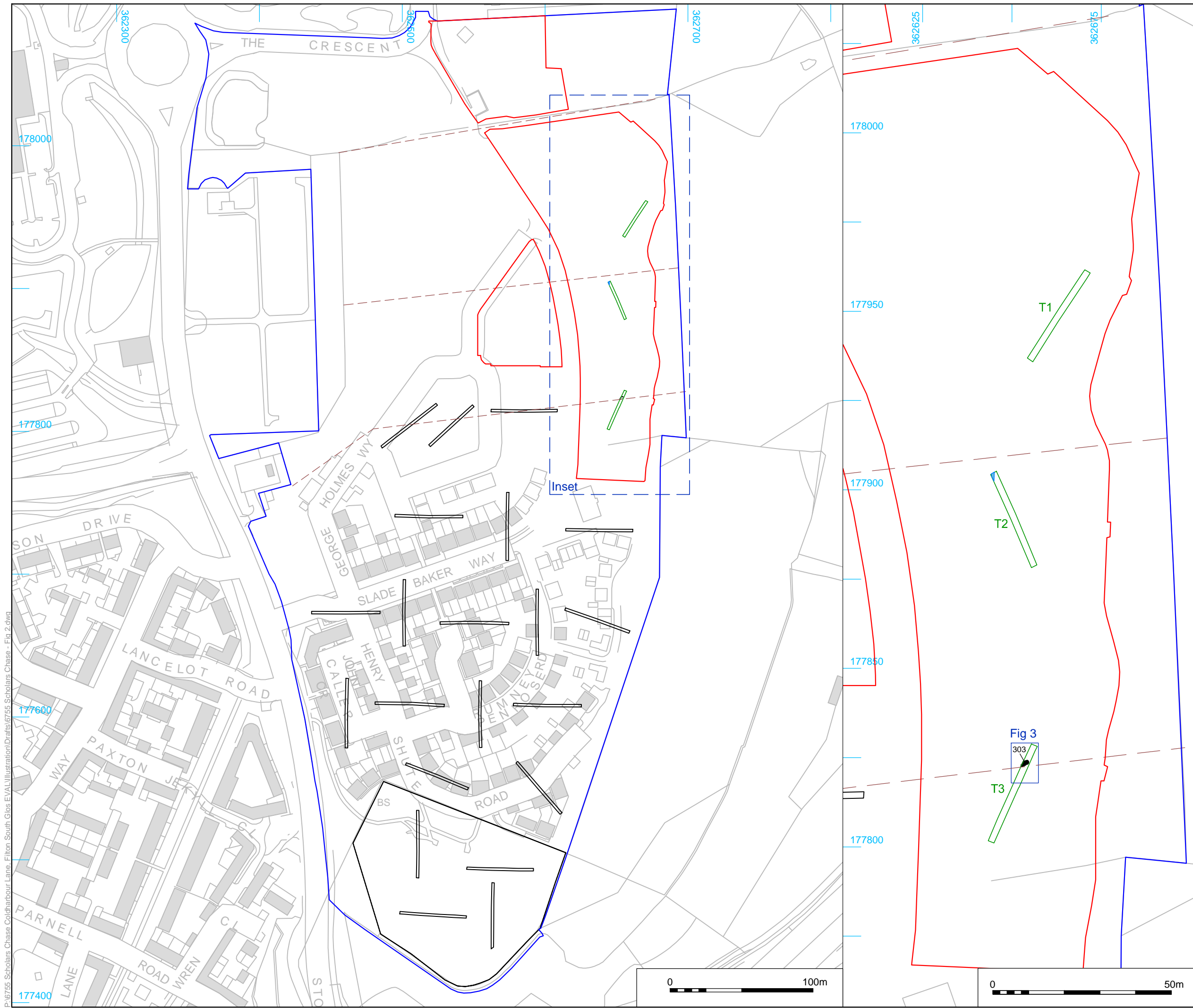
PROJECT TITLE
 Scholars Chase, Coldharbour Lane,
 Filton, South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

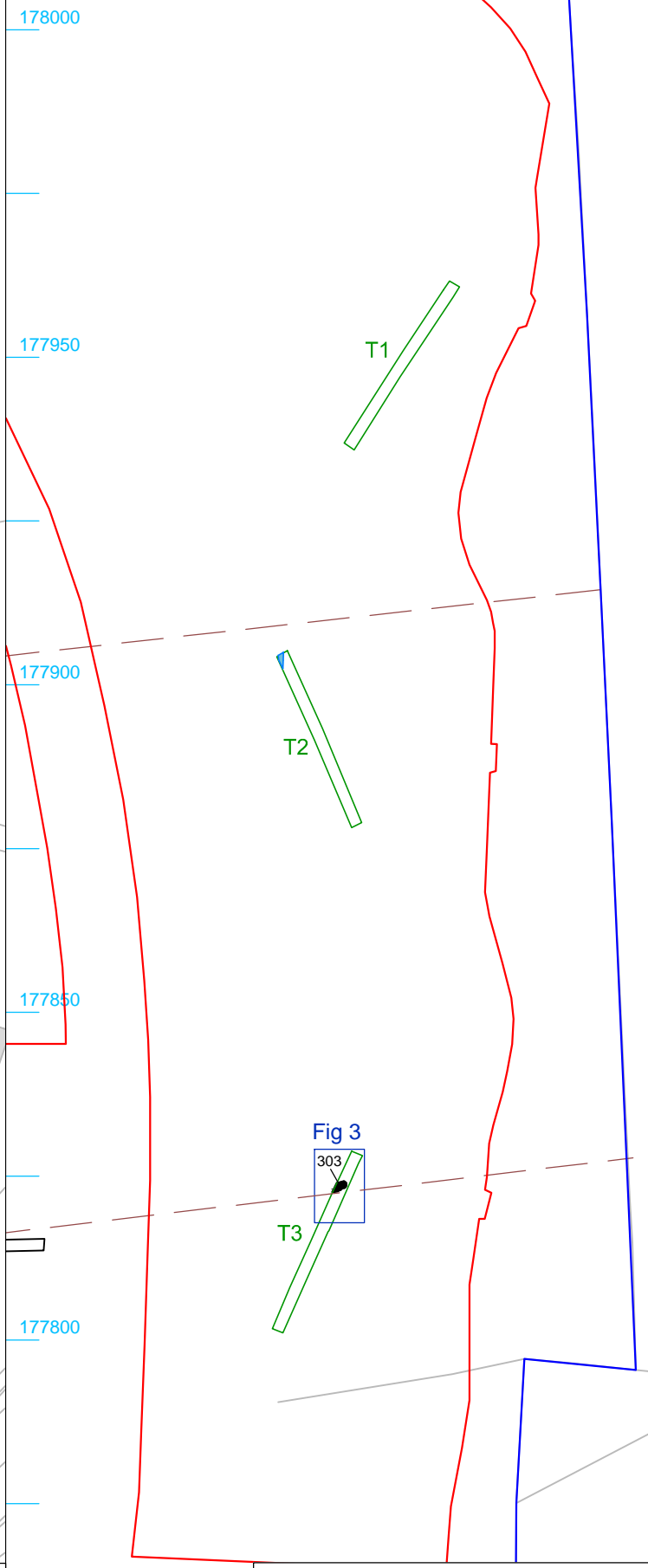
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DRAWN BY TB **PROJECT NO.** 6755
CHECKED BY DJB **DATE** 29.09.18
APPROVED BY RY **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- Land ownership boundary
- previous evaluation trench (CA 2014)
- archaeological feature
- modern
- - - field boundaries, reproduced from J.Naston's 'Map of Stoke Gifford' (1725)



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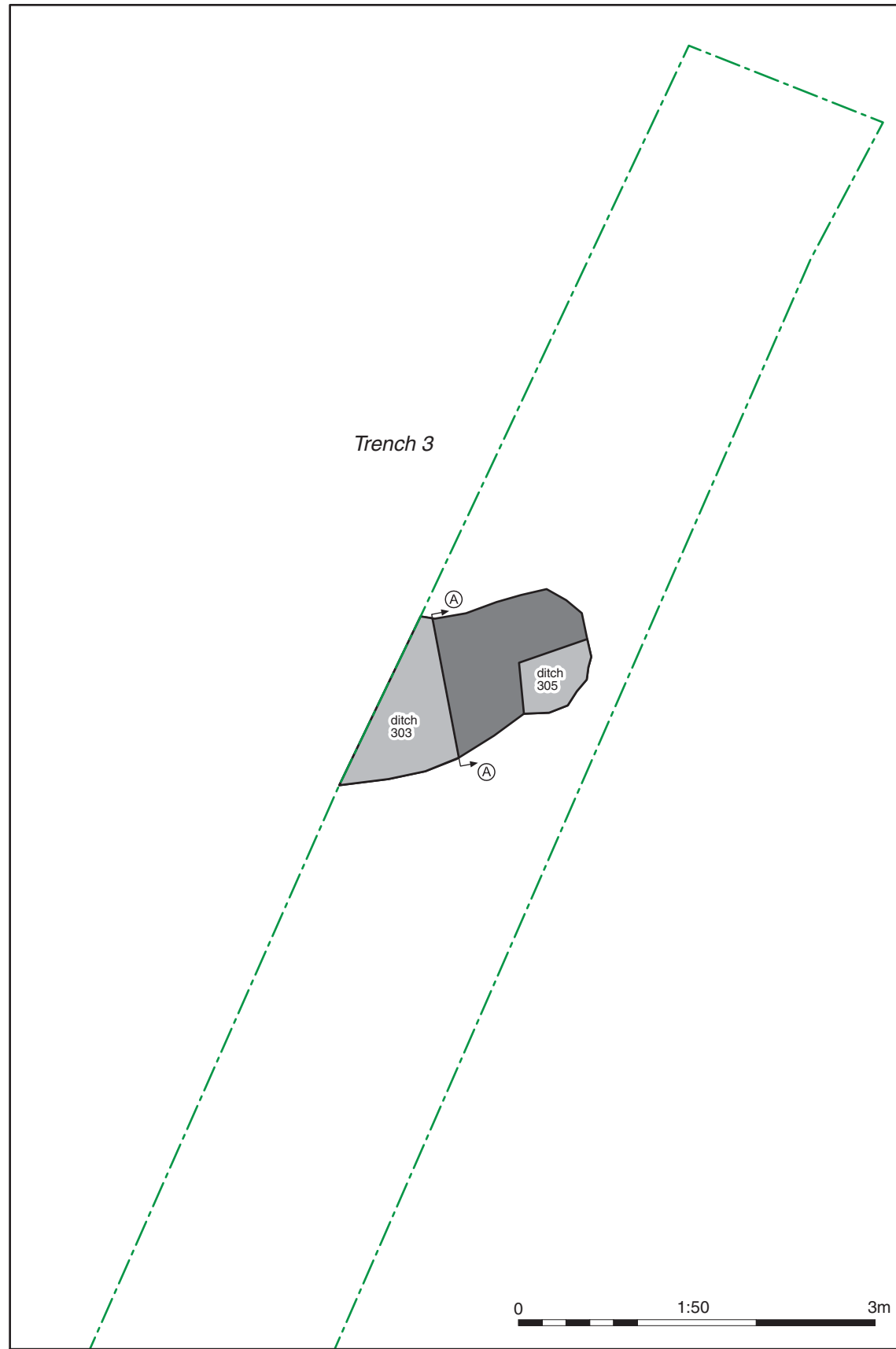
Scholars Chase, Coldharbour Lane, Filton, South Gloucestershire

Trench location plan, showing archaeological features

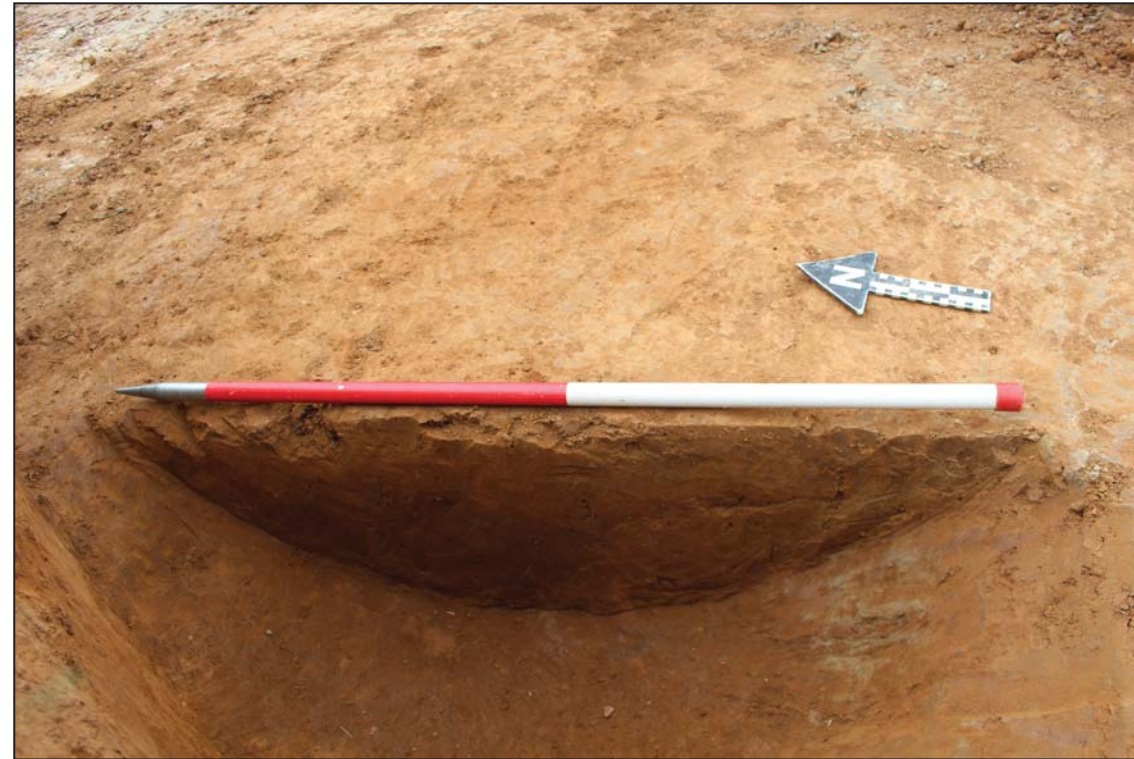
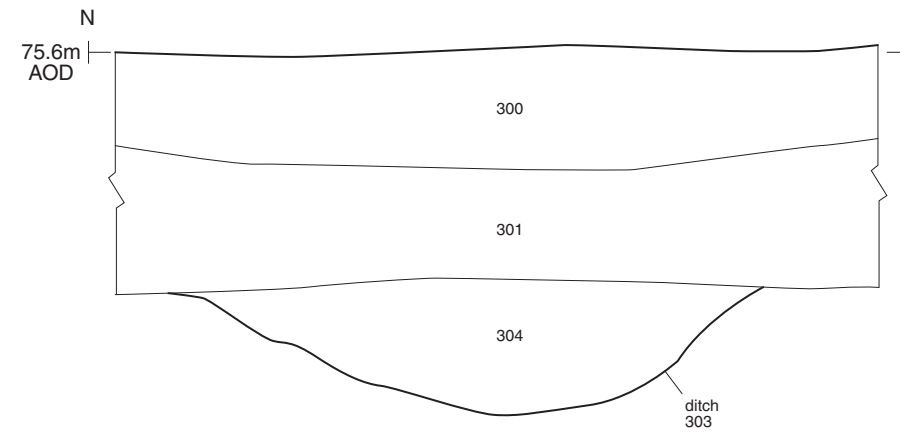


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P:\6755 Scholars Chase Coldharbour Lane, Filton, South Glos E\VAL\Illustration\Drafts\6755 Scholars Chase - Fig 2.dwg

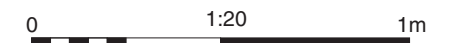


Section AA



Ditch 303/305, looking east (1m scale)

- limit of excavation
- cut feature
- excavated intervention



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PROJECT TITLE
 Scholars Chase, Coldharbour Lane,
 Filton, South, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3: plan, section and photograph

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|-------------|------------|
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| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 25.09.18 | 3 |
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