

**4-6A WOOD LANE  
CHIPPENHAM  
WILTSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**E G CARTER & CO LTD**

*on behalf of*

**WESTLEA HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD**

CA PROJECT: 2507  
CA REPORT: 08011

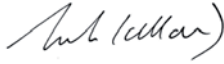
JANUARY 2008



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CA PROJECT: 2507  
CA REPORT: 08011

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date	21 January 2008
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date	23 January 2008
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signed	
date	24 January 2008
issue	01

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- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of trenches (1:500)
- Fig. 3 Trench 2, plan (1:50) and photograph

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** 4-6a Wood Lane  
**Location:** Chippenham, Wiltshire  
**NGR:** ST 9223 7297  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 16-17 January 2008  
**Planning Reference:** 07/02875/FUL  
**Location of Archive:** Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre  
**Site Code:** WLC 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2008 at the request of E G Carter & Co Ltd on behalf of Westlea Housing Association Ltd at 4-6a Wood Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire. Three trenches were excavated.

A drystone wall and robber trench, both relating to a former building on the Wood Lane frontage, were identified as well as a modern brick lined culvert. Modern make up layers and demolition spreads, up to 1.3m in thickness, were revealed overlying the natural clays throughout the site.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for E G Carter & Co Ltd on behalf of Westlea Housing Association Ltd at 4-6a Wood Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 9223 7297; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the demolition of the existing three properties and subsequent residential development at the site (Planning Reference: 07/02875/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Wiltshire County Council Archaeologist and archaeological advisor to North Wiltshire District Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), *the Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (WCC Archaeology Service 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 17 January 2008.

### ***The site***

1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.12ha, and comprises three domestic properties and associated gardens. It is bound to the north by a former graveyard, to the south and east by a car park and on the west by Wood Lane (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 59m AOD.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Clay of the Upper Jurassic (BGS 1990). These deposits were encountered in all trenches.

### ***Archaeological background***

1.5 The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological potential within the known extent of medieval settlement within Chippenham. Within the immediate vicinity of the current site, previous archaeological evaluation at Timber Street, 130m to the north, identified medieval wall foundations and ditches (Wiltshire SMR ST97SW470). Medieval and post-medieval deposits have also previously been

identified at Flowers Yard approximately 200m to the west (SMR ST97SW470 & ST97SW530).

- 1.6 Cartographic records of the proposed development area indicate that buildings previously fronted Wood Lane, the rear gardens of which backed immediately onto the towing path for the Wiltshire - Berkshire canal. The buildings are depicted on the 1886 Ordnance Survey First Edition through to, with minor modifications, the 1936 edition. By 1936, parts of the original roadside structure had been demolished and the current properties at 6 and 6a Wood Lane had been constructed. The property at 4 Wood Lane is first depicted on the 1967 Ordnance Survey edition. The canal, which reached Chippenham in 1800, was redundant and infilled by the compilation of the 1923 Ordnance Survey edition.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the North Wiltshire District Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 3 trenches each measuring 10m in length and 1.6m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Following consultation with Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, an extension to trench 2 was excavated at right angles to the original trench to locate the foundations of the buildings that formerly fronted Wood Lane (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 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* (2007).

- 1.10 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* (2003), however no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.11 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 and site archive will be deposited with Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix C.
- 2.2 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified in all of the trenches, with natural clay being revealed between 1.20m and 1.50m below present ground level (BPGL). This was overlain by modern make up and demolition spreads, up to 1.30m thick, which in turn was sealed by topsoil.
- 2.3 Modern brick culvert 107 was revealed cutting the modern make up layers within trench 1. No archaeological features were identified within trench 3,

### ***Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 2.4 Limestone wall 204 and robber trench 212 were identified within the trench extension cutting the natural clays. The wall was drystone in construction, aligned east/west and was abutted by make up deposit 202. The latter deposit had been cut by north/south aligned robber trench 212.

### ***The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence***

- 2.5 Quantities of modern pottery, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe and building material were recovered from six deposits. The pottery types present consist of modern hand-painted china, suggestive of late 18th to 19th century dating.
- 2.6 The ceramic building material comprises handmade brick fragments, pantiles and roofing tile. The dimensions of the handmade bricks are consistent with minima suggested during George I's reign (Hume 1969, 81). The pantiles date after the late 17th century.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The location and alignment of wall 204 and associated robber trench 212 correlates closely with the cartographic evidence of buildings located on the Wood Lane frontage. The date of construction and indeed the function of these buildings remains undetermined. The building remains were sealed by demolition layer 201 from which artefacts dating from the 17th to 19th centuries were recovered, although cartographic evidence indicates that the buildings actually survived until the mid 20th century. Similar deposits of demolition material were also revealed within trenches 1 and 3.
- 3.2 Overlying the natural clays throughout the site, and also noted abutting *in-situ* wall 204, were a series of clay make up layers interpreted as arising from the construction of the nearby canal and tunnel in the late 18th-century. These deposits were cut by robber trench 212 and by brick culvert 107; the latter still functioned as a drain for the property at 4 Wood Lane.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce, assisted by Siân Reynish. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliott. The archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1990 *Geological Survey of Britain (England and Wales) solid and Drift*. Sheet 265: Bath

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008, *4-6a Wood Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Hume, Ivor Noel 1969 *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America*. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil - Dark grey black clay silt			0.30	
101	Deposit	Make-up layer, mid-dark black brown sandy silt			0.30	
102	Deposit	Make-up layer, mid brownish pink silty sand			0.40	C17-C19
103	Deposit	Make-up layer, light brownish yellow clayey silt			0.45	
104	Deposit	Make-up layer, mid brownish pink silty sand			0.50	
105	Deposit	Make-up layer, mottled yellow and blue clay			0.50 - 1.10	C18+
106	Cut	Cut for modern culvert		c.0.30		
107	Deposit/structure	Modern brick culvert		0.20		
108	Deposit	Make-up layer, dark grey clay sand			0.50	C17-C19
109	Layer	Natural, mid-dark blue grey clay			1.10	

## Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil, Dark black brown sandy silt			0.30	
201	Deposit	Make-up layer, Mottled orange and yellow sandy clay			0.35	C17-C19
202	Deposit	Make-up layer, yellow brown sandy clay			0.95	C19-C20
203	Layer	Natural – blue grey clay				
204	Deposit/Structure	Limestone wall		0.60	0.82	
205	Deposit	Fill of robber cut				C18-C19
206	Cut	Cut of modern outflow pipe				
207	Deposit/Pipe	Modern clay water pipe within 206				
208	Deposit	Fill of 206, dark brown silty clay, rubble inclusions				
209	Cut	Cut of modern outflow pipe				
210	Deposit	Clay water/outflow pipe within 209				
211	Deposit	Fill of 209, silty clay, rubble inclusions				
212	Cut	Cut of wall 204				

## Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil, Dark brown to black, sandy silt			0.35	
301	Deposit	Make-up layer, yellow brown sandy clay			0.45	
302	Deposit	Re-deposited natural yellow clay			0.45	
303	Layer	Natural, blue grey clay				

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
102	Ceramic building material; pantile	1	452	C17-C19
105	Ceramic building material; pantile, handmade frogless brick	3	3926	C18+
108	Ceramic building material; pantile Clay tobacco pipe; stem	1 1	54 2	C17-C19
201	Ceramic building material; pantile, roof tile, brick	3	424	C17-C19
202	Modern pottery; china Ceramic building material; pantile, roof tile	1 2	12 58	C19-C20
205	Modern pottery; hand painted china Ceramic building material; pantile Slate roof tile	1 1 1	16 358 274	C18-C19

**APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES**

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using the spot height located just past the junction of Wood Lane and The Paddocks opposite the Police Station (58.8m AOD).

	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3
Current ground level	0.00m (57.74m)	0.00m (58.36m)	0.00m (54.69m)
Top of culvert 107	0.54m (57.20m)		
Top of wall 204		0.30m (58.06m)	
Base of wall 204		1.10m (57.26m)	
Top of natural clays	1.33m (56.41m)	1.48m (56.88m)	1.21m (53.48m)

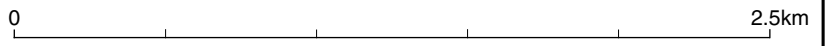
Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.


## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	4-6a Wood Lane	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2008 at the request of E G Carter Limited at 4-6a Wood Lane. Three trenches were excavated.  A drystone wall and robber trench, both relating to a former building on the Wood Lane frontage, were identified as well as a modern brick lined culvert. Modern make up layers and demolition spreads, up to 1.3m in thickness, were revealed overlying the natural clays throughout the site.	
Project dates	16–17 January 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Archaeological evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Not known	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	4-6a Wood Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.12ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 9223 7297	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre	Ceramics, CBM, clay tobacco pipe
Paper	Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre	Context sheets, trench recording sheet, levels register, photographic register, plan and section drawing
Digital	Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008, <i>4-6a Wood Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 08011		

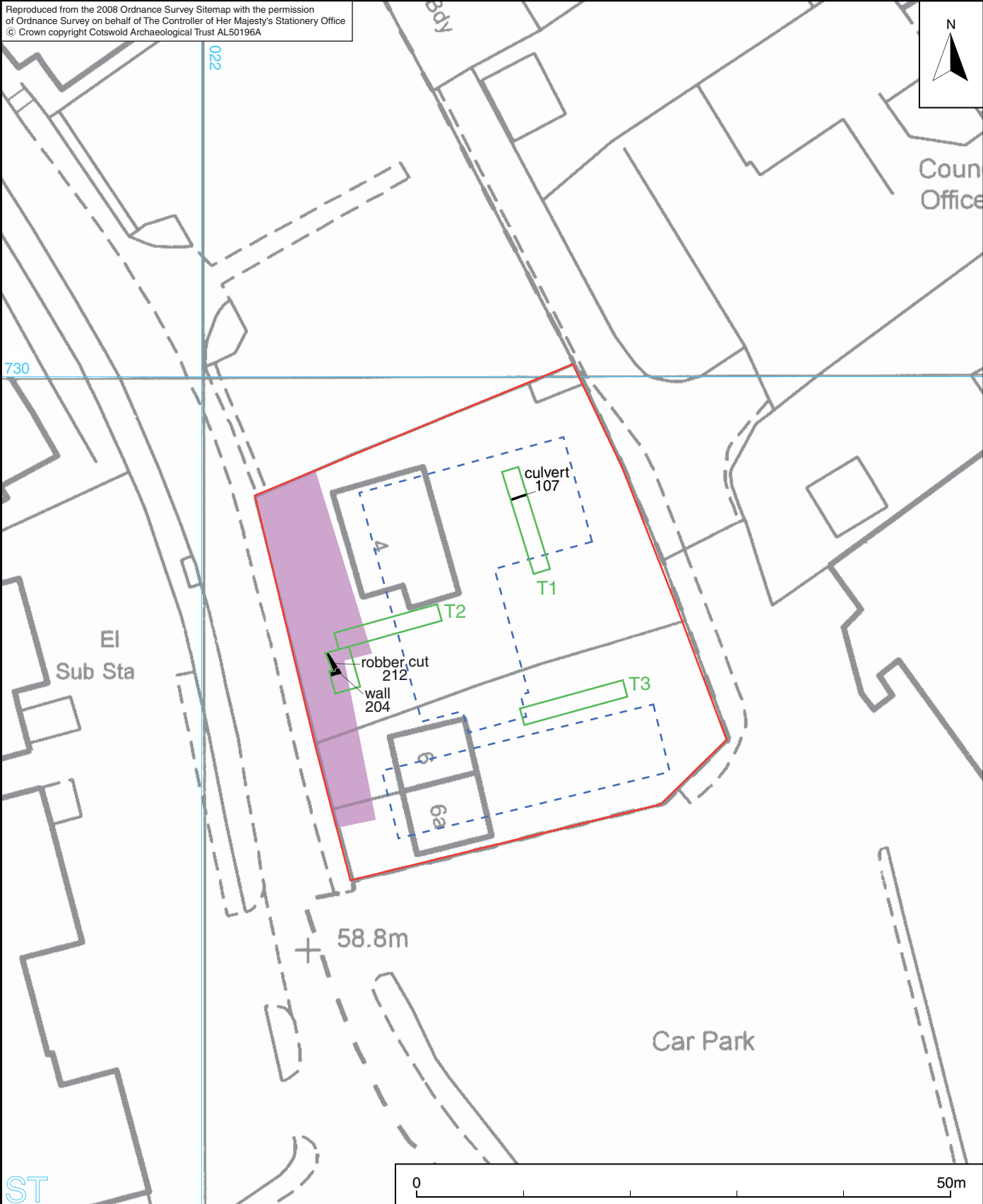


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 <b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
PROJECT TITLE <b>4-6a Wood Lane, Chippenham          Wiltshire</b>			
FIGURE TITLE <b>Site location plan</b>			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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ST

- site
- trench showing archaeological features
- proposed ground plan
- buildings depicted 1886-1936



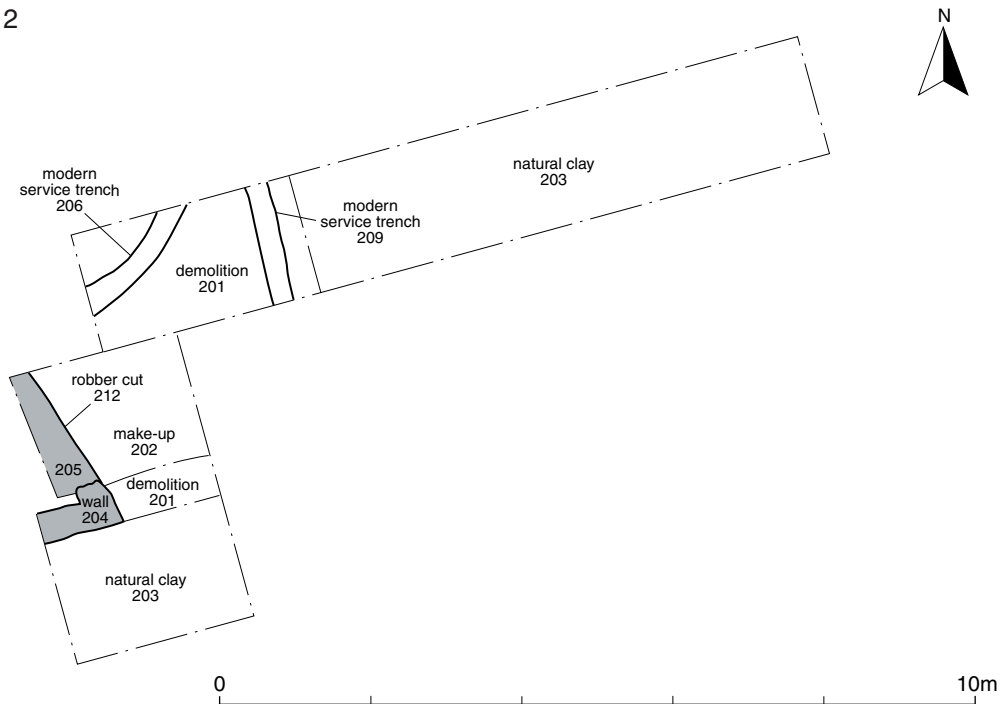
COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE  
 4-6a Wood Lane, Chippenham  
 Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**The site, showing location  
 of trenches**

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JE	1:500@A4	2507	<b>2</b>

Trench 2



South facing section of trench 2



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

4-6a Wood Lane, Chippenham  
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 2, plan and photograph**

DRAWN BY

JE

SCALE

1:100@A4

PROJECT NO.

2507

FIGURE NO.

**3**