

Lanes Cottage Winterbourne Bassett Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Mr AJ Iles

CA Project: 5838
CA Report: 16235

June 2018



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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	28 June 2018	Marino Cardelli	Steven Sheldon	Draft		Cliff Bateman

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

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks and identified archaeological features (1:400)

Fig. 3 Ditch 103 and ditch 200: sections (1:20) and photographs



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Lanes Cottage
Location:	Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire
NGR:	409636 175237
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	29 April 2016 and 19 March 2018
Planning Reference:	15/12796/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes
Site Code:	LCW 16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the replacement of an existing dwelling, the relocation of a garage and associated landscaping at Lanes Cottage, Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire.

Two ditches, correlating closely to a property/plot boundary associated with two known 18th-century farm workers cottages formerly located within the site and depicted on the 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey map, were identified cutting the subsoil in the central part of the site. Artefactual material of late 18th to 19th-century date was recovered from the fill of one of these ditches.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2016 and March 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr A J Iles at Lanes Cottage, Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: 409636 175237; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the replacement of an existing dwelling, the relocation of a garage and associated landscaping (Wiltshire Council (WC); Planning ref: 15/12796/FUL, condition 10).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist, WC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 0.32ha in extent and comprises the existing dwelling (Lanes Cottage) and parts of its associated grounds. The site is bounded to the north-east by an unnamed lane and in all other directions by agricultural fields. It lies at approximately 180m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as West Melbury Chalk Formation and Zig Zag Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) of the Cretaceous Period (BGS 2018). No superficial deposits are recorded. The natural substrate, comprising compact yellow-grey clay, was identified throughout the areas of observed groundworks.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has previously been subject to archaeological watching brief during the construction of a detached garage (JWAS 2009) and the nearby area has been subject to archaeological desk based assessment in relation to a separate planning application (AA 2014). The following summary is of information taken from these documents, along with any publically available information pertinent to the site.



Prehistoric

- 2.2 No evidence of prehistoric activity has been identified within the site itself, although the wider area is known to contain a number of prehistoric features and monuments. Evidence of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic activity in the Winterbourne area is limited to chance finds of stone tools (AA 2014). A Neolithic stone circle, first recorded by Stukeley in 1793, is located c. 400m to the north-west of the site. A number of prehistoric funerary monuments have also been identified in the vicinity of Winterbourne Bassett; these include a round barrow of probable Bronze Age date, recorded c. 30m to the east of the current site (*ibid.*).

Roman

- 2.3 Evidence for Roman activity in the area is limited to the chance find of a buckle (c. 1km to the south) and the recovery of a small quantity of Roman pottery and roof tile during an archaeological evaluation at St Katherine and St Peter's Church, c. 350m to the south-east of the current site (*ibid.*).

Medieval and Post-medieval

- 2.4 The site is located c. 340m to the north-west of the medieval core of Winterbourne Bassett, which is itself focussed around St Katherine and St Peter's Church. An archaeological watching brief undertaken during drainage works at the church identified a pit containing 11th or 12th century pottery which was cut by the mid-13th century church foundations (CA 2012). The current village appears to have seen little expansion outside of the original medieval footprint and no other finds or features of medieval date are recorded from within the current village bounds (AA 2014).
- 2.5 Lanes Cottage itself was originally a pair of 18th-century farm workers cottages with associated gardens. These cottages were converted and extended into a single dwelling during the mid-20th century (JWAS 2009). A watching brief undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a detached garage in the grounds of the current property revealed no features or deposits of archaeological interest (JWAS 2009; see Figure 2 for location). However, quantities of unstratified 19th and 20th-century pottery and building material were recovered from the topsoil during these works.

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 2016). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising ground reduction throughout the new building footprint (Area 1) and ground reduction for a water treatment plant (Area 2; see Fig. 2 for locations and extent). Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contactors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.

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 and artefacts from the watching brief 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, Devizes, 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 (FIGS 2-3)

5.1 In Area 1 the natural substrate, 102, was revealed at an average depth of 1m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by silty clay subsoil, 101, measuring 0.5m in thickness. In the southern part of the stripped area the subsoil was cut by



broadly east/west aligned ditch 103 (Fig. 3, section AA). It measured 1m in width, 0.35m in depth, had an irregular 'U'-shaped profile and contained fill 104 from which three sherds of late 18th to 19th-century pottery, a fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material, a fragment of fired clay and a fragment of animal bone were recovered. The fill of ditch 103 was sealed by topsoil 100 measuring 0.5m in thickness.

- 5.2 In Area 2, the natural substrate 202 was revealed at an average depth of 0.7m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by silty clay subsoil, 204, measuring 0.2m in thickness. In the north-western part of the stripped area the subsoil was cut by broadly east/west aligned ditch 200 (Fig. 3, section BB). It measured 1.05m in width, 0.22m in depth, had a shallow irregular profile and contained a single sherd of abraded pottery of broad Roman date. The fill of ditch 200 was sealed by topsoil, 203, measuring 0.5m in thickness.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from two ditch fills. The recovered material dates to the Roman and post-medieval/modern periods. Pottery fabric codes, in parenthesis below and in Appendix B, have been devised for the purpose of this report.

Pottery: Roman

- 6.2 A slightly abraded, unfeatured bodysherd (2g) in a greyware fabric (GW) with oxidised surfaces was recorded from fill 201 of ditch 200.

Post-medieval/modern

- 6.3 Fill 104 of ditch 103 produced three sherds (18g) of refined whiteware. Transfer-printed decoration on one sherd allows dating to the late 18th to 19th centuries. The other two sherds feature 'flow blue' decoration, which can be more narrowly dated to the mid to late 19th century (C. Jarrett, pers. comm).

Ceramic building material

- 6.4 A heavily abraded fragment of ceramic building material (7g), most likely of post-medieval date, was retrieved from fill 104 of ditch 103.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Despite the close proximity of a number of prehistoric monuments to the current site (see *archaeological background* above), no evidence of prehistoric activity was identified during the watching brief.
- 7.2 Ditches 103 and 200, identified cutting the subsoil in Areas 1 and 2 respectively, correspond closely to a property/plot boundary depicted on the 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map and appear to be associated with the known 18th-century farm workers cottages formerly located within the site (see *archaeological background* above). The boundary is shown on all later editions of OS mapping until 1978, after which it is no longer depicted. Pottery of late 18th to 19th-century date was recovered from the fill of ditch 103 whereas a single sherd of pottery of broad Roman date was recovered from the fill of ditch 200. The limited quantity of the Roman pottery from recovered from the fill of this ditch, along with its abraded nature, suggests that it is almost certainly residual.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt and Marino Cardelli. The report was written by Marino Cardelli. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by Marino Cardelli, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

9. REFERENCES

- AA (Absolute Archaeology LLP) 2014 *Land at Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*. Project Ref: AARC162/14/DBA
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 15 March 2016
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *St Katharine and St Peter's Church, Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief*, CA Report No. **12157**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *New Build at Lanes Cottage, Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

JWAS (JW Archaeology Services) 2009 *Report on the findings of an Archaeological Watching Brief at Lanes Cottage, High Street, Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire,*
Document Ref: **JWAS 0070**



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 brown sand clay	>30	>12	0.5	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow grey silt clay	>30	>12	0.5	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow grey clay	>30	>12	>0.2	
1	103	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned, irregular 'U'-shaped profile		1.0	0.35	
1	104	Fill	103	Fill	Single fill of ditch 103, mid brown grey clay	>15	1	0.35	LC18-C19
2	200	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned, shallow irregular profile	>3.5	1.05	0.22	
2	201	Fill	200	Fill	Single fill of ditch 200, mid brown grey clay		1.05	0.22	
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow grey clay	>14	>5	>0.1	
2	203	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sand clay	>14	>5	0.5	
2	204	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow grey silt clay	>14	>5	0.2	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
104	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	TRW	1	4	MC19-LC19
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Flow-blue decorated refined whiteware	FRW	2	14	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Fragment		1	7	
	Fired clay			1	3	
	Animal bone			1	0.2	
201	Roman pottery	Greyware	GW	1	2	RB
	Animal bone			1	171	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Lanes Cottage, Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the replacement of an existing dwelling, the relocation of a garage and associated landscaping at Lanes Cottage, Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire.</p> <p>A single sherd of residual Roman pottery was recovered from the fill of a later (post-medieval/modern) ditch identified in the central part of the site. No features or deposits of Roman date were identified during the current works.</p> <p>Two ditches, correlating closely to a property/plot boundary associated with two known 18th-century farm workers cottages formerly located within the site and depicted on the 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey map, were identified cutting the subsoil in the central part of the site. Artefactual material of late 18th to 19th-century date was recovered from the fill of one of these ditches.</p>	
Project dates	29 April 2016 and 19 March 2018	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Watching Brief (JW Archaeology Services 2009)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Lanes Cottage, Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	c. 0.32ha	
Site co-ordinates	409636 175237	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Marino Cardelli	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content:
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Pottery, CBM, animal bone
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Context sheets, trench recording sheets, permatrace section drawings
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>New Build at Lanes Cottage, Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 16235		

175300

409550






409600

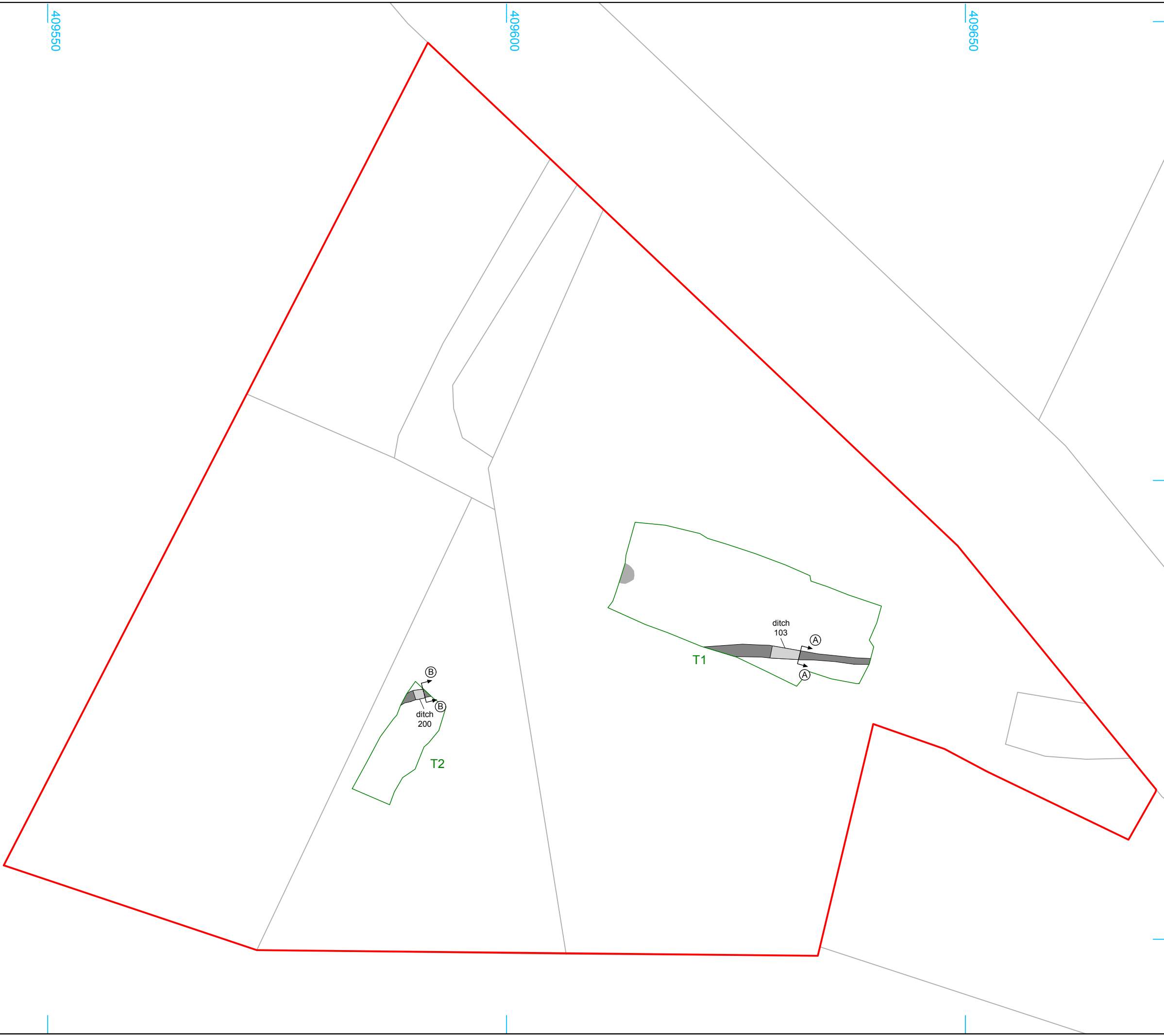
409650



175250

175200

-  site boundary
-  area of observed groundworks
-  archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
-  modern
-  section location



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PROJECT TITLE
Lanes Cottage, Winterbourne Bassett,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Area of observed groundworks,
showing identified archaeological
features**

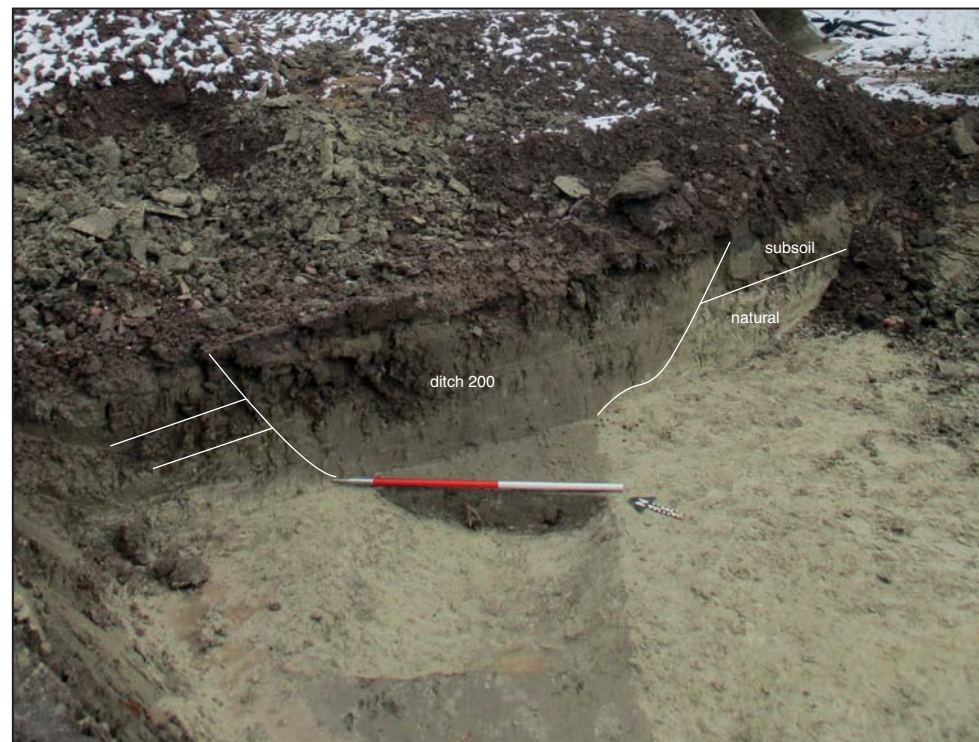
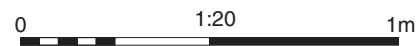
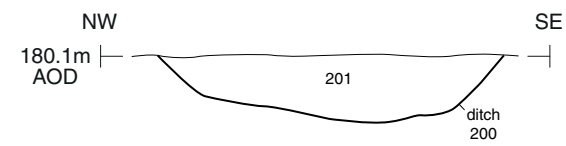
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CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	22/03/2018		
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A3	1:400		2

Section AA



Ditch 103, looking south-east (scale 1m)

Section BB



Ditch 200, looking north-east (scale 1m)


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FIGURE TITLE
 Sections and photographs

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CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	22/03/2018	
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