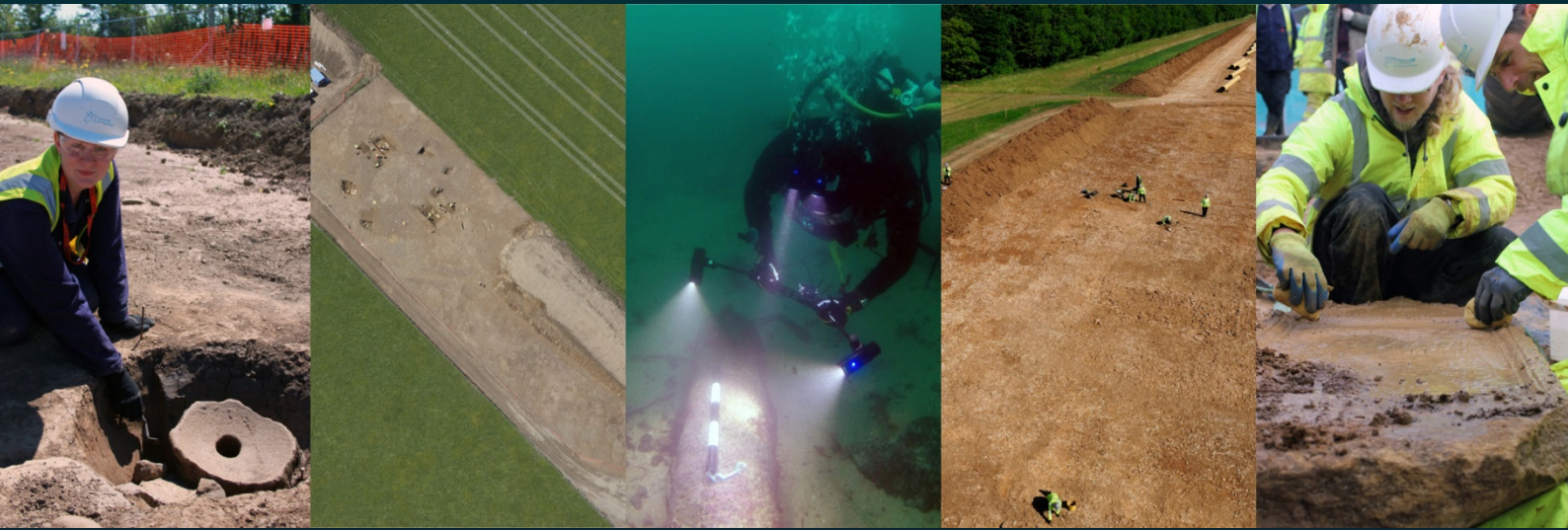


The Spa Purton Stoke Wiltshire

Archaeological Excavation



for
Kernon Countryside
Consultants

on behalf of
Mr & Mrs Joylon Fallon

CA Project: CR0157
CA Report: CR0157_1

September 2019



The Spa Purton Stoke Wiltshire

Archaeological Excavation

CA Project: CR0157
CA Report: CR0157_1



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	06/09/2019	Monica Fombellida	Oliver Good	Internal review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	5
4. METHODOLOGY	5
5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-3).....	6
6. THE FINDS	6
8. DISCUSSION.....	7
9. CA PROJECT TEAM	7
10. STORAGE AND CURATION	7
11. REFERENCES	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	9
APPENDIX B: POTTERY	10
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	11

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Site location plan (1:25,000)
Figure 2	The site, showing the excavation area and archaeological features
Figure 3	Photographs



SUMMARY

Project Name:	The Spa
Location:	Purton Stoke, Wiltshire
NGR:	408385 190626
Type:	Excavation
Date:	15-16 August 2019
Planning Reference:	19/01843/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Accession Number:	DZSWS:02-2019
Site Code:	SPU19

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2019 at The Spa, Purton Stoke, Wiltshire. The excavation was located within the north field of a site designated for agriculture.

Despite the anticipated potential for archaeological remains within the excavated area, no archaeological features pre-dating the post-medieval period were observed. The excavation confirmed the presence of ridge-and-furrow within the site. The furrows identified tally with north-south aligned anomalies highlighted in the previous geophysical survey, carried out in the fields to the north, as field drainage. It seems likely that these anomalies are a continuation of the furrows. The post-medieval layer 1004 is probably a result of intense agricultural activity in this area during particularly wet periods.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2019, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation at the request of Kernon Countryside Consultants, on behalf of Mr & Mrs Joylon Fallon, at The Spa, Purton Stoke, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference 408385 190626 (see Figure1).
- 1.2 Planning permission for construction works to build a tennis court was granted by Wiltshire Council (WC; planning ref: 19/01843/FUL), conditional on a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken during construction groundwork.
- 1.3 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019) and approved by WC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* and accompanying *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015). It was monitored for WC by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, the County Archaeologist.

The site

- 1.4 The development area is approximately 0.0650Ha in extent, and comprises the dwelling known as The Spa and its grounds. The development area within the grounds is currently defined as being agricultural and is surrounded on all sides by additional agricultural land. including current land-use and boundaries. The site lies at approximately 89m above Ordnance Datum and is broadly flat.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone of the Jurassic period. No superficial deposits are noted (BGS 2019). Natural yellow clay was encountered in the excavation area.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has not been subject to previous desk-based assessment. The following is a brief summary of public domain resources.



- 2.2 There is no specific archaeological evidence to suggest prehistoric activity in proximity to the site. The Hill fort of Ringsbury, Scheduled Monument (List Entry Number: 1018124), is located c. 2km to the south of site, and Bury Hill Fort, Scheduled Monument (List Entry Number: 1018125), is located c. 2km to the west of site. Both Monuments indicate that prehistoric communities were settled in the area. However, their economic activities would have been predominantly agricultural alongside the exploitation of forests and meadows, which other than drove ways, boundary and enclosure ditches leaves little in the way of evidence.
- 2.3 Evidence of Roman settlement activity and pottery production is noted to the north of the site, near Whitehill Farm. Medieval settlement is also noted to be focused at this location. A possible medieval hollow way is recorded c. 240m to the southeast of the site. The Saxon town of Cricklade is located c. 2km to the north-east of site and Purton located c. 2km to the south-east of site. The site lay in the hinterland of both of these Saxon communities.
- 2.4 Geophysical survey was undertaken on land immediately to the north of the site. This identified a series of anomalies interpreted as evidence of occupation during the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. However, the nature of this anomalies remains unclear and further archaeological investigation will be required to confirm their date (WAFG 2019).
- 2.5 The Salt's Hole, (a Grade II listed building (NGR: SU0842990608)), is located c .60m to the east of the site. An octagonal building was constructed around the well in 1860 at the same time as the adjoining Spa Cottage. The properties of the Salt's Hole were well known by the local communities during the post-medieval period (Richardson 1919).
- 2.6 During the 20th century the boundaries of the site did not change. The building of The Spa Cottage was extended, with a new building being added. In 1953, the United Kingdom Government requisitioned 580 acres of land to build The Royal Air Field of Blakehill, located c. 700m to the north-west of site. The Airfield did not have any major impact on the site.



3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains

3.2 The specific aims of the work were to:

- record any evidence of past settlement or other land use
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The archaeological excavation was undertaken in the area identified on Figure 2. This comprised of an excavation area 600m² in size. Excavation areas will be set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica GPS, and scanned for live services by trained staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the Cotswold Archaeology *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*. The position and size of excavation areas was adjusted on site to account for services and other constraints, with the approval of the archaeological advisor to WC.

4.2 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil from the excavation area by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision.

4.3 The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

- 4.4 Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential and five features considered to have potential for characterising the earlier phases of activity were sampled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
- 4.5 All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation*.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the excavation results; detailed summaries of the contexts and finds are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate was recorded at an average of 0.22m below the present ground level (bpgl). Within the north end of the site, four ridge-and-furrow lines and a number of land drains were observed along a north/south alignment. Pottery sherds dating to the post-medieval period were recovered from the furrows. Toward the south of the excavation area, the furrows were sealed by a clay-silt deposit, **1004**, from which pottery sherds dated from the post-medieval period were also recovered. Deposit **1004** was sealed by the subsoil which in turn was sealed by the topsoil.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from two deposits. The recovered material dates to the medieval and post-medieval/modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric and fabric codes have been devised for the purpose of this report.

Pottery

- 6.2 A total of seven sherds (182g) were recovered, all being of post-medieval/modern date. Dateable to the mid-16th to 18th centuries were sherds of glazed earthenware (GRE) and Donyatt glazed earthenware (DON). The latter features comprised white slip-trailed underglaze decoration. Also of post-medieval date was a rimsherd from a platter in yellow slipware (YSW) with pie-crust edge decoration, dating to the late 17th to 18th century, and a base sherd from a vessel in Creamware (CRM) of mid to

late 18th century date. Sherds of brown-glazed earthenware (BGE) were also recorded, which date to the 18th to 19th centuries.

Ceramic building material

- 6.3 A fragment of ridge tile (glazed roof tile) was retrieved from layer **1004**. The fabric is identifiable as Malvernian, which allows dating in the 14th to 16th century range.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Despite the potential for archaeological remains within the excavated area, no archaeological features pre-dating the post-medieval period were observed. The excavation confirmed the presence of ridge-and-furrow within the site. The furrows identified tally with north-south aligned anomalies previously highlighted as field drainage in the geophysical survey carried out in the fields to the north. It seems likely that these anomalies are a continuation of the furrows. The post-medieval layer **1004** probably formed as a result of intense agricultural activity combined with perennially wet conditions.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Marino Cardelli. The report was written by Monica Fombellida. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville and the illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Oliver Good.

10. STORAGE AND CURATION

- 10.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices in Kemble whilst post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project, and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes (accession number: DZSWS:02-2019), which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project. 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.



11. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 9 July 2019

WAFG (Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group) 2019 *Hardings Farm and Pond Farm, Purton Stoke, Wiltshire – Geophysical Survey Report No. 2019.01*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 *The Spa, Purton Stoke, Wiltshire. Witten Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation.*

Richardson, M S, 1919, *The Storey of Purton.*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Context Type	Context Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot Date
1000	layer	Topsoil	Dark brown silty-clay with modern inclusions	33	18	0.19	
1001	layer	Subsoil	Light brown clay with modern inclusions	33	18	0.03	
1002	layer	Natural	Yellow clay with patches of orange gravel	33	18	n/a	
1004	layer	Deposit	Light brown silt-clay with modern inclusions	2.2	0.8	0.2	

APPENDIX B: POTTERY

Finds by Jacky Sommerville

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from two deposits. The recovered material dates to the medieval and post-medieval/modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric and fabric codes have been devised for the purpose of this report.

Pottery

6.2 A total of seven sherds (182g) was recovered, all of post-medieval/modern date. Dateable to the mid 16th to 18th centuries are sherds of glazed earthenware (GRE) and Donyatt glazed earthenware (DON). The latter features white slip-trailed underglaze decoration. Also of post-medieval date are a rimsherd from a platter in yellow slipware (YSW) with pie-crust edge decoration, dating to the late 17th to 18th century, and a base sherd from a vessel in Creamware (CRM) of mid to late 18th century date. Sherds of brown-glazed earthenware (BGE) were also recorded, which date to the 18th to 19th centuries.

Ceramic building material

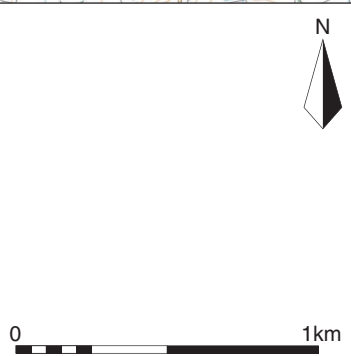
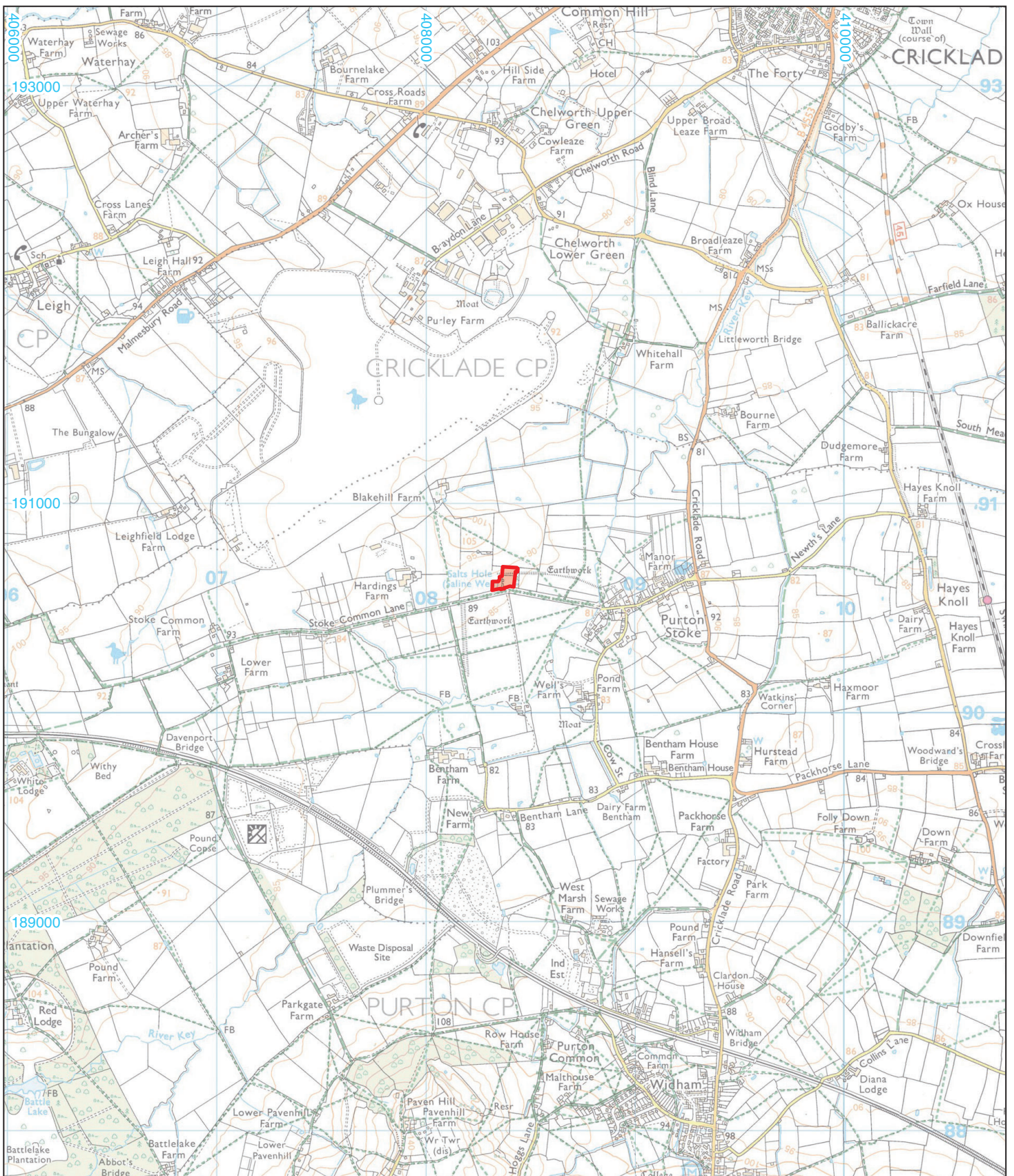
6.3 A fragment of ridge tile (glazed roof tile) was retrieved from layer 1004. The fabric is identifiable as Malvernian, which allows dating in the 14th to 16th century range.

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1004	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GRE	1	16	C18-C19
	Post-medieval pottery	Yellow slipware	YSW	1	14	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Brown-glazed earthenware	BGE	2	56	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Ridge tile		1	31	
1005	Post-medieval pottery	Donyatt glazed earthenware	DON	1	16	MC18-C19
	Post-medieval pottery	Creamware	CRM	1	9	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Brown-glazed earthenware	BGE	1	72	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	The Spa, Purton Stoke, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2019 at The Spa, Purton Stoke, Wiltshire. The excavation was located at the north field of the site in an area currently defined as agricultural. No archaeological features pre-dated the post-medieval period were observed. The excavation confirmed the agricultural character of the land represented by the ridge-and-furrow system, very common in this area of Wiltshire	
Project dates	17-16 August 2019	
Project type	Excavation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Purton Stoke, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	600m ²	
Site co-ordinates	408385 190626	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Oliver Good	
Project Supervisor	Marino Cardelli	
MONUMENT TYPE	n/a	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Physical	Wilshire Museum	Pottery sherds
Paper	Wilshire Museum	Trench record sheet, drawing
Digital	Wilshire Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>The Spa. Purton Stoke, Wiltshire: Archaeological Excavation</i> . CA typescript report CR0157_1		



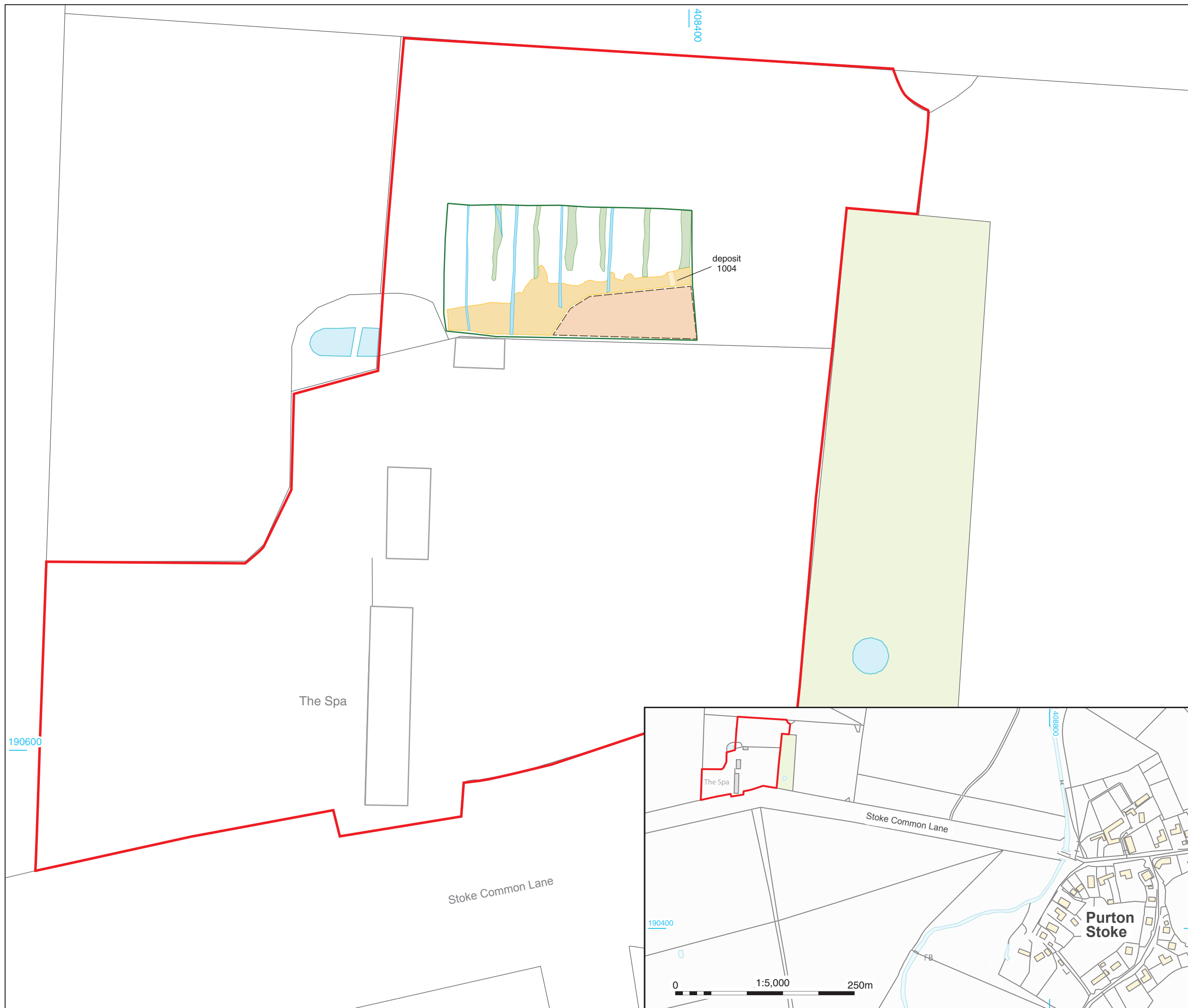

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 The Spa, Purton Stoke, Wiltshire

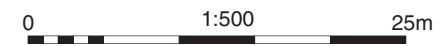
FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	CR0157	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28/08/2019	1
APPROVED BY	OW	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

© Crown copyright and database rights 2019
 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



- Site boundary
- Excavated area
- Deposit (excavated/unexcavated)
- Constraint
- Furrow
- Field drain



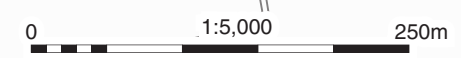
© Crown copyright and database rights 2019 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 The Spa, Purton Stoke, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing the excavation area and archaeological features

DRAWN BY EE	PROJECT NO. CR0157	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 28/08/2019	2
APPROVED BY OW	SCALE@A3 1:500 / 1:5000	





East facing section of deposit 1004, looking south-west (1m scale)



General photograph of the excavation area, looking west



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

The Spa, Purton Stoke, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	CR0157	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28/08/2019	
APPROVED BY	OW	SCALE@A4	NA	3

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 1, Clyst Units
Cofton Road
Marsh Barton
Exeter
EX2 8QW

t: 01392 573970

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive, Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

