

**DURLSTON
HILPERTON ROAD
TROWBRIDGE
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

**LAND DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING
CONSULTANTS**

on behalf of

H. J. KNEE LTD

CA PROJECT: 2493
CA REPORT: 08014


JANUARY 2008



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HILPERTON ROAD
TROWBRIDGE
WILTSHIRE

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CA REPORT: 08014

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|-------------|---|
| prepared by | Katharine Aston, Project Supervisor |
| date | 22 January 2008 |
| checked by | Laurent Coleman, Project Manager |
| date | 23 January 2008 |
| approved by | Mark Collard, Head of Contracts |
| signed |  |
| date | 25 January 2008 |
| issue | 01 |

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Durlston
Location: Hilperton Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire
NGR: ST 8697 5865
Type: Evaluation
Date: 14 January 2008
Planning Reference: 07/02117/OUT
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Trowbridge Museum
Site Code: DTW 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2008 at the request of Land Development & Planning Consultants on behalf of H. J. Knee Ltd at Durlston, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Three trenches were excavated.

A probable ditch terminal was identified within trench 1 and may have represented a continuation of Bronze Age activity previously recorded to the east of the site. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within trenches 2 and 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Land Development & Planning Consultants on behalf of H. J. Knee Ltd at Durlston, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 8697 5865; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application to West Wiltshire District Council for the demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of three dwellings.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation (WCC 2007) prepared by Sue Farr, Assistant Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council (WCC), the archaeological advisor to West Wiltshire District Council (WWDC), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by WWDC acting on the advice of Helena Cave-Penney, Assistant Archaeologist, WCC. 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 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Helena Cave-Penney, including a site visit on 14 January 2008.

The site

1.3 The site is bounded to the north-west by Hilperton Road (A361) and to the north-east, south-east and south-west by further residential development (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 60m AOD, with the ground level dropping slightly downward to the north-west.

1.4 The site encompasses approximately 0.45ha, and is currently a house and garden.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Formation (Limestone and Mudstone) of the Jurassic era (BGS 2000). The natural substrate of clay with small limestone inclusions was encountered within the evaluation trenches.

Archaeological background

1.6 Archaeological interest in the site arises from the location of the site upon a geological ridge along which archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric

period onwards have been discovered. These include a number of discoveries associated with development immediately to the east of the site, most notably of late prehistoric and Roman date, including an area of Late Bronze Age settlement activity enclosed by a double ditch and ditches dating to the Romano-British period (AC Archaeology 1998, 157).

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 West 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 three trenches, all measuring 15m in length and 1.9m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). With the approval of Helena Cave-Penney, trench 3 was positioned to the south-east of its original location to avoid the patio and buried services to the rear of the existing dwelling.
- 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) and 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 will be deposited with Trowbridge Museum 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.

2. RESULTS

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and are to be found in Appendices A and B.

2.2 During the evaluation one probable ditch terminal was identified within trench 1 and trenches 2 and 3 were devoid of archaeological features. Undisturbed natural, comprising silty clay, was revealed within all of the trenches, at depths of between 0.45m and 0.6m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil, up to 0.26m thick which was sealed by topsoil up to 0.38m thick. Deposits relating to the landscaping of the garden were identified in trench 3 and land drains were identified in all three trenches.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

2.2 A probable north-west/south-east orientated ditch terminal 105 was identified at the centre of the trench. The full extent of the feature was not confirmed as it continued beyond the north-western edge of the trench. It was filled by silty clays, 103, 104 and 107, the former containing fired clay, burnt animal bone and a flint flake of Neolithic to Bronze Age date.

Trenches 2 & 3 (Fig. 2)

2.3 Trenches 2 and 3 were devoid of archaeological features.

The finds evidence

2.5 Small amounts of fired clay, burnt animal bone and struck flint were recovered from fill 103.

2.6 The struck flint consists of one flake displaying signs of secondary working and is probably a scraper. A broadly late Neolithic to Bronze Age date is suggested.

2.7 Eleven fragments of fired clay, weighing 80g were present. No diagnostic features are present on any of the fragments.

- 2.8 The burnt animal bone consists of two small unidentifiable fragments, one white in colour and the other dark grey/black, suggesting different states of oxidation acquired during burning.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Although it is possible that the flint artefact recovered from the fill of probable ditch terminal 105 is residual within a later feature, this feature may have related to the Bronze Age activity identified approximately 200m to the east of the site. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified within trenches 2 and 3.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Katharine Aston, assisted by Rob Elliott. The report was written by Katharine Aston. The illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliott. The archive has been compiled by Katharine Aston, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

- AC Archaeology 1998 'Hilperton: Paxcroft Mead' *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* Volume **91**, 157
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2000 *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) Solid and Drift Sheet 281: Frome*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Durlston, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
- WCC (Wiltshire County Council) 2007 *Durlston, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge: Archaeological Brief for Field Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**Trench 1** Present ground level: 59.41m AOD

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 100 | Layer | Topsoil; dark greyish brown clay silt | | | 0.37 | |
| 101 | Layer | Subsoil; mid orangey brown silty clay | | | 0.22 | |
| 102 | Layer | Natural; orangey grey clay | | | >0.17 | |
| 103 | Fill | Secondary fill of 105; mid orangey red silty clay | >1.8 | 0.63 | 0.25 | |
| 104 | Fill | Primary fill of 105; dark grey black silty clay | >1.8 | 0.53 | 0.25 | |
| 105 | Cut | U-shaped ditch filled by 103/104/107 | >1.8 | 1.40 | 0.25 | |
| 106 | Cut | Cut for land drain | >1.9 | 0.08 | | |
| 107 | Fill | Tertiary fill of 105; mid brown silty clay | >1.8 | 0.85 | 0.24 | |
| 108 | Fill | Fill of land drain 106 | >1.9 | 0.08 | | |

Trench 2 Present ground level: 59.70m AOD

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 200 | Layer | Topsoil; dark greyish brown clay silt | | | 0.38 | |
| 201 | Layer | Subsoil; mid orangey brown silty clay | | | 0.26 | |
| 202 | Layer | Natural; orangey grey clay | | | >0.15 | |
| 203 | Cut | Cut for land drain | >2 | 0.08 | | |
| 204 | Fill | Fill of land drain 106 | >2 | 0.08 | | |

Trench 3 Present ground level: 59.97m AOD

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 300 | Layer | Topsoil; dark greyish brown clay silt | | | 0.21 | |
| 301 | Layer | Re-deposited topsoil | | 3.0 | 0.10 | |
| 302 | Layer | Gravel/tarmac layer | | | 0.07 | |
| 303 | Layer | Subsoil; mid orangey brown silty clay | | | 0.08 | |
| 304 | Layer | Natural; mid yellowish orange clay | | | >0.07 | |
| 305 | Cut | Cut for land drain | >2.4 | 0.08 | | |
| 306 | Fill | Fill of land drain 106 | >2.4 | 0.08 | | |

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

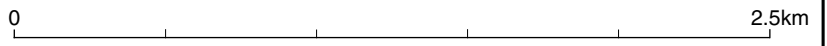
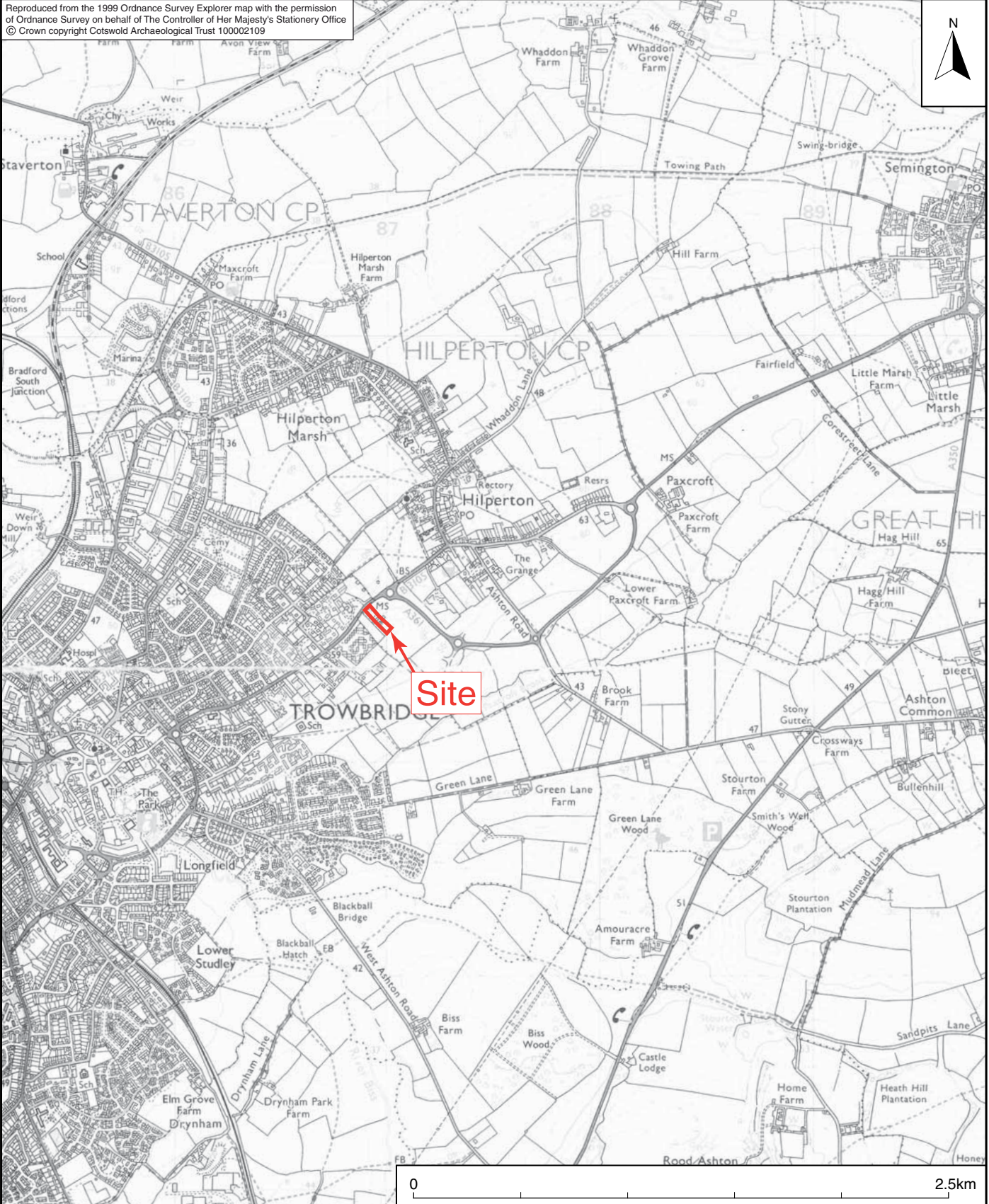
Finds concordance


| Context | Artefact type | Count | Weight (g) | Spot-date |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 103 | Fired clay | 11 | 80 | - |
| | Burnt animal bone | 2 | 1 | |
| | Flint flake | 1 | 4 | |

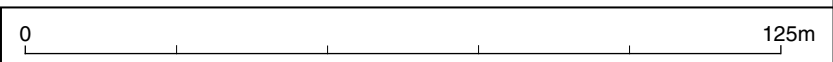
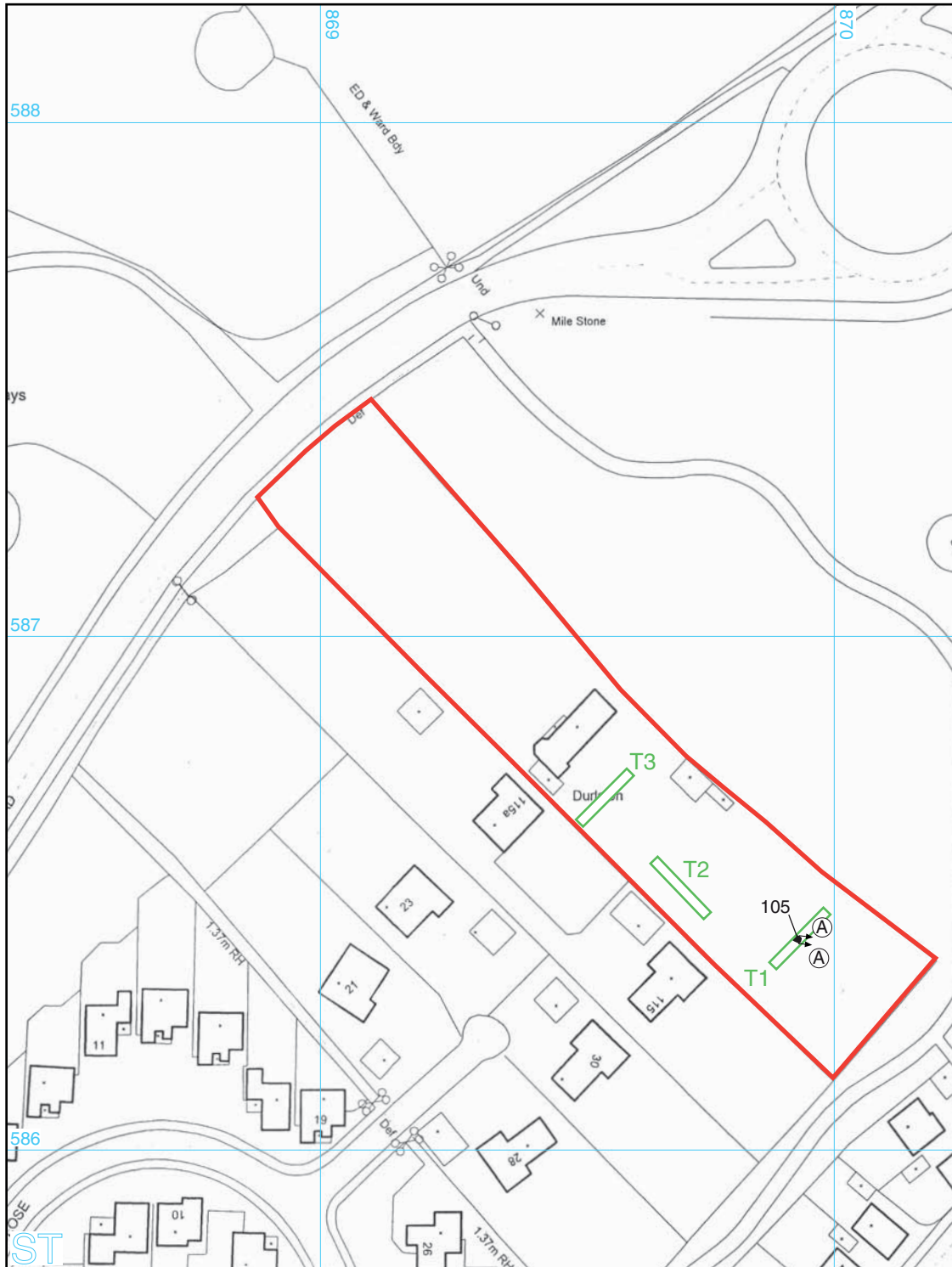
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|--|---|---|
| Project Name | Durlston | |
| Short description (250 words maximum) | <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2008 at Durlston, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Three trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A probable ditch terminal was identified within trench 1 and may have represented a continuation of Bronze Age activity previously recorded to the east of the site. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within trenches 2 and 3.</p> | |
| Project dates | 14 January 2008 | |
| Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc) | Archaeological evaluation | |
| Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc) | | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Durlston, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire | |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | 0.45ha | |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference) | ST 8697 5865 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Brief originator | Wiltshire County Council | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Laurent Coleman | |
| Project Supervisor | Katharine Aston | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) | Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) |
| Physical | Trowbridge Museum | Ceramics and animal bone. |
| Paper | Trowbridge Museum | Trench recording forms, section drawings and plans, photographic registers. |
| Digital | Trowbridge Museum | Digital photos. |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Durlston, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA Typescript Report 08014 | | |

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|--|-------------|-------------|------------|
|  COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY | | | |
| PROJECT TITLE Durlston, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge Wiltshire | | | |
| FIGURE TITLE Site location plan | | | |
| DRAWN BY | SCALE | PROJECT NO. | FIGURE NO. |
| JE | 1:25,000@A4 | 2493 | 1 |



- site
- trench showing archaeological feature



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**Durlston, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge
 Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan showing
 archaeological feature**

DRAWN BY

JE

SCALE

1:1250@A4

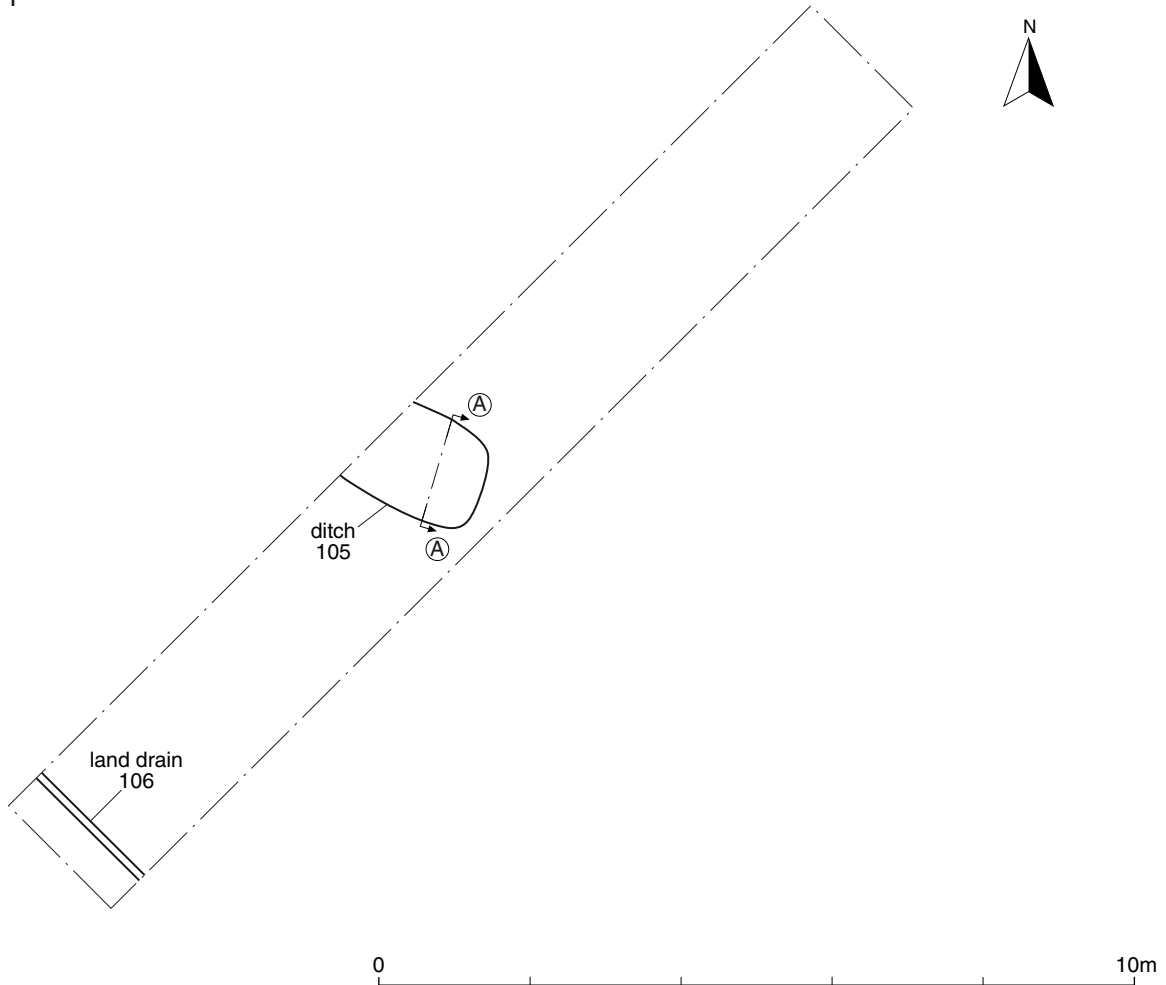
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2493

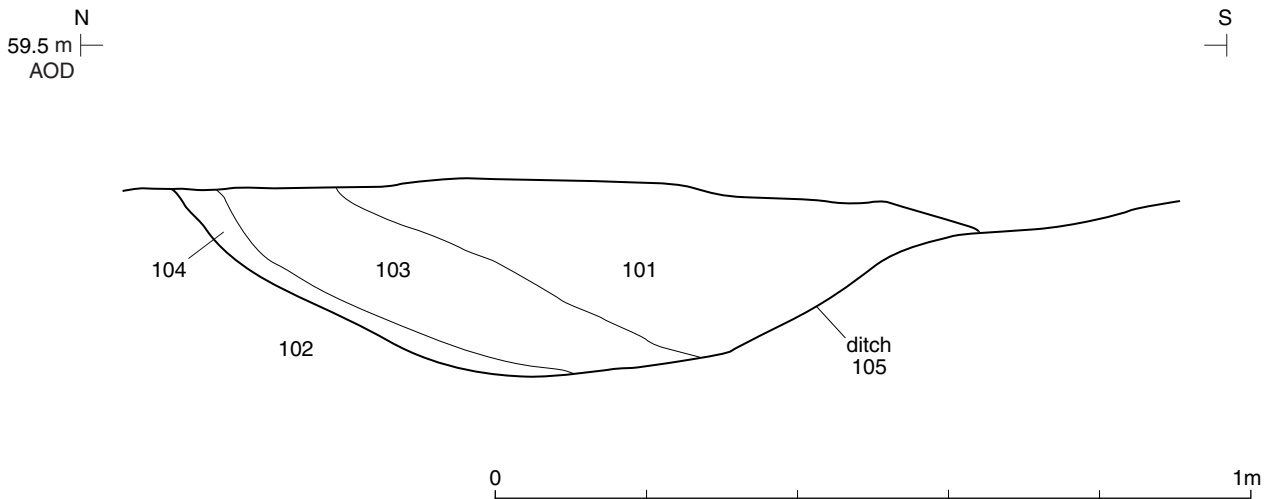
FIGURE NO.

2

Trench 1



Section AA



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Durlston, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: Plan and section

DRAWN BY

JE

SCALE@A4

1:100 & 1:10

PROJECT NO.

2493

FIGURE NO.

3