

**OLD GREEN FARM  
ALVESTON  
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**ECOTRICITY**

CA PROJECT: 2564  
CA REPORT: 08076


APRIL 2008



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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prepared by	Kelly Saunders, Project Supervisor
date	7 April 2008
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	14 April 2008
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	14 April 2008
issue	01

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
2. RESULTS (FIG. 2) .....	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	5
4. CA PROJECT TEAM .....	5
5. REFERENCES .....	5
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	6
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	7

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing features (1:5000)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Old Green Farm  
**Location:** Alveston, South Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** ST 6494 8431  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 25-27 March 2008  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives  
**Accession Number:** BRSMG 2008/22  
**Site Code:** OGF 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2008 at the request of Ecotricity on land at Old Green Farm, Alveston, South Gloucestershire. Three trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered within the trenches. Natural clay was noted in all three trenches.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Ecotricity on land at Old Green Farm, Alveston, South Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: ST 6494 8431; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application for the construction of a wind farm on the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a recommendation from David Haigh, Archaeological Officer, South Gloucestershire Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Mr Haigh. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is bounded by arable fields to the north, east and south, and the B4427 Old Gloucester Road to the west (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 67m AOD, with the ground dropping away to the east.
- 1.4 The whole site covers approximately 75ha, although a far smaller area will be affected by the development proposals. The site consists of arable fields.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Cotham and Westbury clay beds and Mercia Mudstones of the Triassic Era (GSB 1981). The former was encountered in trenches one and two, and the latter in trench three.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.6 A desk-based Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment has been carried out for the site (WCPM 2008). This noted that no archaeological sites were recorded within the site and that there was a low potential for the survival of previously unrecorded remains of any period within the site. A Desk-Based Assessment and Watching Brief undertaken as part of the mitigation for the construction of the Pucklechurch to Seabank pipeline (which runs through the northern part of the site) did not encounter any archaeological features in the

vicinity of the site (ibid., 11). A number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and Listed Buildings lie within the vicinity of the site, but will not be materially affected by the proposed development. There are no records of Prehistoric or Roman activity within the vicinity of the site. The site of a Shrunken Medieval Village (SMV) and a medieval farmstead are recorded 1.8km to the west of the site. A number of post-medieval settlements in the area are thought to have medieval origins, notably Old Green Farm c. 400m to the north of the site (ibid., 10).

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the application area in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional or national context can be made. This information will clarify whether any remains are of sufficient importance to warrant consideration for preservation *in situ*, or alternatively form the basis of mitigation measures that may seek to limit damage to significant remains.

### **Methodology**

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of three trenches, each 50m in length and 1.6m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (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 natural substrate.
- 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), but no deposits suitable for sampling were identified.
- 1.11 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. It will be deposited with Bristol's 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.

## 2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 No features of archaeological significance were encountered within the three trenches. A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified, with undisturbed natural clay revealed within each trench at a depth of between 0.28m and 0.5m below present ground level (BPGL). This was sealed by topsoil. Trench 2 crossed the line of modern boundary/drainage ditch 202.

## 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the course of the evaluation.

## 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kelly Saunders, assisted by Rebecca Riley and Jessica Cook. The report was written by Kelly Saunders. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Kelly Saunders, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1981 *Solid and Drift Geology, Chepstow, Sheet 250, 1:50,000 series*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Old Green Farm, Alveston, South Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

WCPM (Waterman CPM) 2008 *Proposed Wind Farm, Alveston, Gloucestershire: Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment*. Typescript report ref. **H3047\_01a**

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

### Trench 1 (Present ground level – 65.80m AOD)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Plough soil. Mid greyish brown silty clay containing modern debris			0.3	
101	Layer	Natural Substrate. Orange yellow clay with blue mottle.				

### Trench 2 (Present ground level – 67.00m AOD)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Plough soil. Mid grey brown silty clay.			0.5	
201	Layer	Natural Substrate. Orange yellow clay with blue mottle.			0.25	
202	Cut	Modern open cut drainage ditch		4.5		Modern

### Trench 3 (Present ground level – 54.50m AOD)

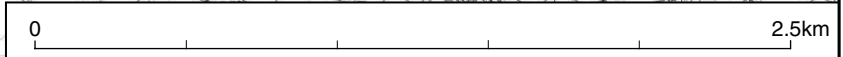
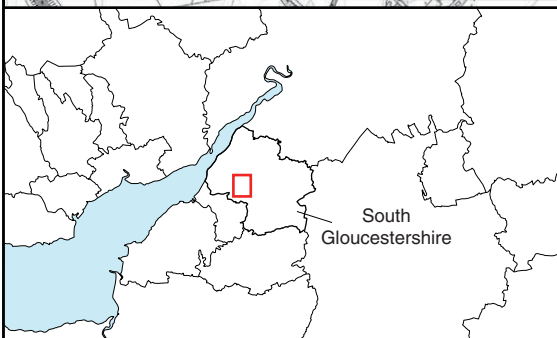
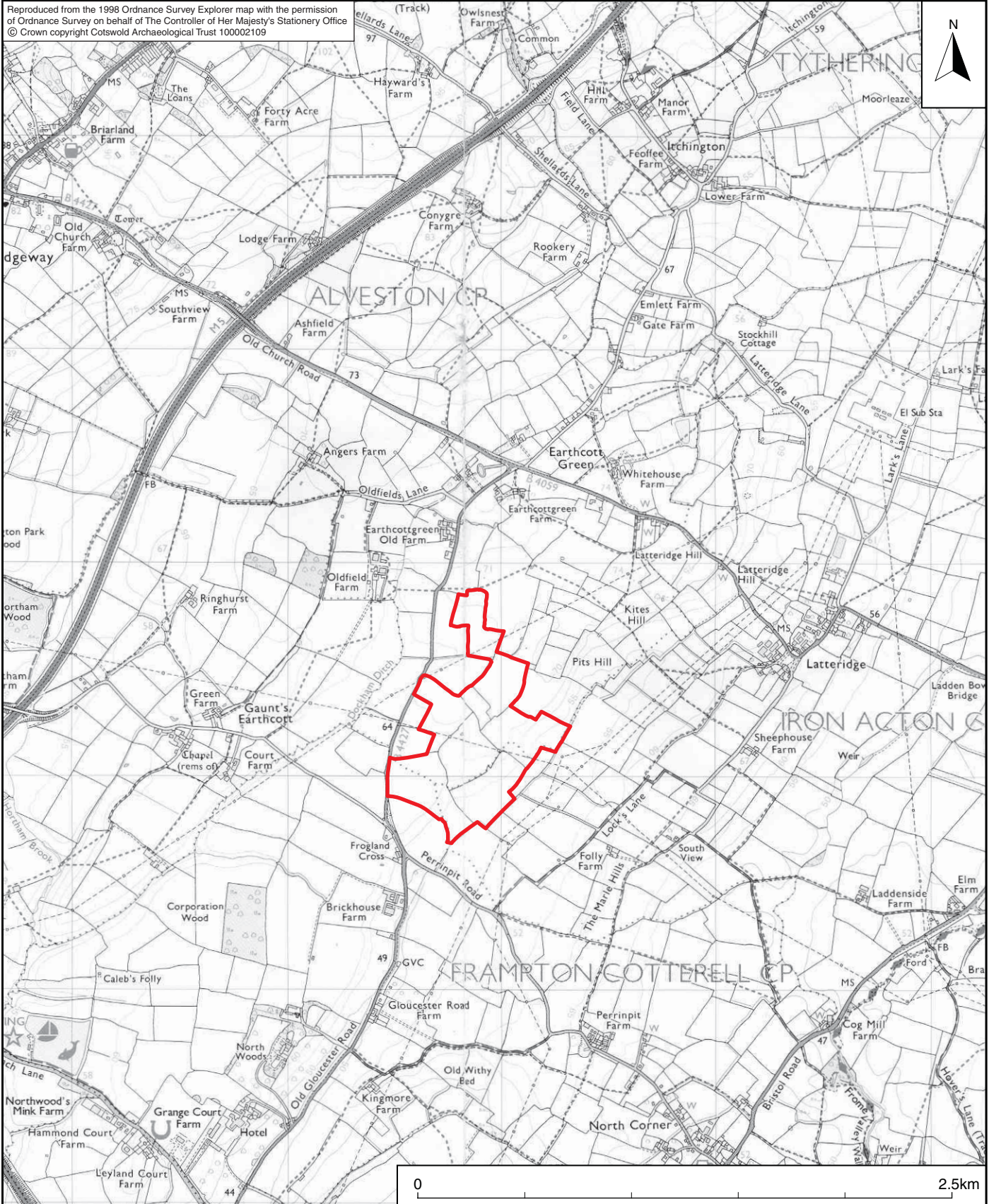
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Plough soil. Mid grey brown silty clay			0.28	
301	Layer	Natural Substrate. Light reddish brown clay				




**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

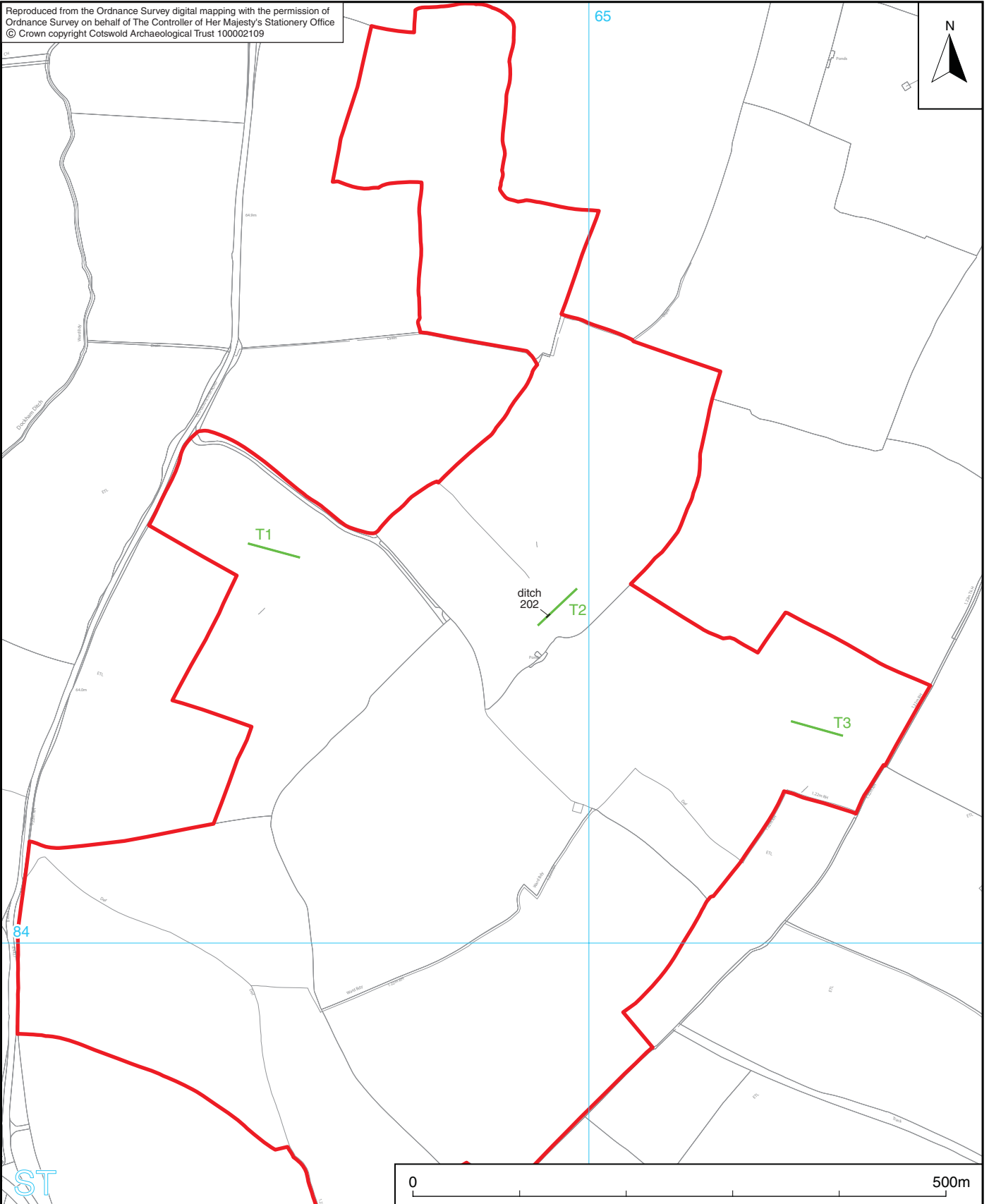
<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Old Green Farm, Alveston, South Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2008 at the request of Ecotricity on land at Old Green Farm, Alveston, South Gloucestershire. Three trenches were excavated. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered within the trenches. Natural clay was noted in all three trenches.	
Project dates	25-27 March 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Desk-based assessment - WCPM (Waterman CPM) 2008 <i>Proposed Wind Farm, Alveston, Gloucestershire: Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment</i> . Typescript report ref. <b>H3047_01a</b>	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Old Green Farm, Alveston, South Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	75ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 6494 8431	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	South Gloucestershire Council Archaeology Service	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Kelly Saunders	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		N/A
Paper	Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives	Pro-forma recording sheets
Digital		N/A
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Old Green Farm, Alveston, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report No. <b>08076</b>		



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 <b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
PROJECT TITLE <b>Old Green Farm, Alveston          South Gloucestershire</b>			
FIGURE TITLE <b>Site Location Plan</b>			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:25,000@A4	2564	<b>1</b>

65



-  site
-  evaluation trench showing feature



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Old Green Farm, Alveston  
South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan, showing features**

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

1:5000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2564

FIGURE NO.

**2**