

Culverhay Regeneration (Phase 4a) Cricklade Wiltshire

Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording



for
GreenSquare Group

CA Project: CR0287
CA Report: CR0287_1

April 2020



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

Fig. 2 Area of observed groundworks, showing previous evaluation trenches and identified archaeological features (1:300 and 1:2500)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Culverhay Regeneration (Phase 4a)
Location: Cricklade, Wiltshire
NGR: 409776 193809
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 4-10 February 2020
Planning Reference: Wiltshire Council planning ref: 15/08666/FUL, Condition 8
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Accession Number: DZSWS: 26 – 2019
Site Code: CULC19

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2020 on land at Culverhay Regeneration (Phase 4a), Cricklade, Wiltshire during groundworks associated with the development.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2020 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording for GreenSquare Group on land at Culverhay Regeneration (Phase 4a), Cricklade, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 409776 193809; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Planning permission for the erection of 109 dwellings with associated landscaping, highways and service infrastructure, following the demolition of 65 existing dwellings was granted by Wiltshire Council (WC planning ref: 15/11230/FUL, condition 8), conditional on a programme of archaeological work. This was to initially comprise archaeological field evaluation, to be completed in Phase 4a of the development. The field evaluation has subsequently been undertaken (CA 2019a; see *Paragraph 2.11* for results). Following subsequent consultation between CA and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, WC it was determined that a further programme of archaeological monitoring and recording would be required during groundworks associated with the development in this phase of the development.
- 1.3 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019b) and approved by approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).

The site

- 1.4 The overall development site is approximately 5ha in extent and comprises part of a mid 20th-century housing estate located approximately 200m to the north-west of Cricklade town centre. The Phase 4a development area itself measures approximately 0.2ha in extent and is located towards the north-eastern corner of the wider development site (see Fig. 2 for location and extent). The Phase 4a area was formerly occupied by four residential properties and associated gardens, is broadly level and lies at approximately 86m AOD. It is bounded to the north-west by White Horse Road, to the north-east by further residential properties and gardens, to the south-east by a lane running alongside Scheduled Monument *Cricklade Town Banks* (National Monument 1002997) and to the south-west by an unnamed cul-de-sac.

- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation - Mudstone of the Jurassic period (BGS 2020). The natural substrate, comprising compact yellow and grey clay, was identified within all foundation trenches excavated in Phase 4a.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Archaeological interest in the Phase 4a area arises primarily from its location immediately to the north-west of the Scheduled Monument *Cricklade Town Banks* (National Monument 1002997). The survival of the former bank and external ditches of the Saxon and Norman town have been demonstrated by previous archaeological investigations, notably in the south-western corner of the town.
- 2.2 No prehistoric features are recorded within, or in close vicinity to, the current site. The Cricklade Urban Assessment records that there are 'no prehistoric finds from the town itself, although an Iron Age spearhead was found near the route of the Roman road to the north and two unlocated Iron Age coins are recorded from the parish' (WCAS 2004, 7).
- 2.3 The nature of Roman settlement at Cricklade remains uncertain, although it is possible that it was a staging post on Ermin Street near a crossing of the River Thames. Evidence for Roman occupation at Cricklade includes occupation layers recorded from St Sampson's School playing fields (c. 100m to the south-east of site), and pottery and building debris from other locations in the town. A large ditch excavated in the north-eastern part of the town has been interpreted as a possible western boundary to the Roman settlement (King 1993).
- 2.4 Cricklade was chosen as the site for a defended settlement or 'burh' in the late 9th century during the reign of King Alfred; the site lies outside of these defences. Haslam (2006) defines several periods of construction of the defences and these are summarised below.

Period 1 – c. AD 879-880 (Saxon)

- 2.5 Period 1 comprised the major construction of the Saxon town defences that included a large 6m wide clay bank (its original height is not known) with three shallow ditches on its exterior. The highly regular layout of the defences indicates that they were contemporary with the streets within the defended area and thus part of a fortress and new settlement (ibid.).

Period 2 – early 10th century (Saxon)

- 2.6 In the early 10th-century the defences were strengthened with a substantial stone wall on the exterior side of the bank, and the bank itself was most probably heightened. A small revetment wall was also constructed towards the inner side of the bank (ibid.).

Period 3 - early 11th century (Saxon)

- 2.7 Possibly around AD 1016, an episode of widespread destruction of the defences occurred. The walls to the front and rear of the bank were destroyed and the inner ditches filled with stones (ibid.). There is evidence from other Wessex fortresses (such as Wallingford, Christchurch and Lydford) that this formed part of a general policy of destruction by King Cnut.

Period 4 - Mid 12th century (Norman)

- 2.8 This period marks the re-defence of the town. A substantial wooden palisade was built along the line of the former wall and a further shallow ditch excavated. The innermost Saxon ditch was also re-instated. Pottery evidence from archaeological excavations suggests that this took place in the mid 12th-century, and documentary evidence also supports this date. A medieval document, *Gesta Stephani*, mentions the construction of a 'castellum' at Cricklade by William of Dover in AD 1144 that may refer to the re-fortification of the whole town.
- 2.9 Evidence from historic mapping suggests that the current site, along with the majority of land to the north-west of the town defences, remained part of the agricultural hinterland of Cricklade until residential development of the area occurred in the last quarter of the 20th-century.

- 2.10 An archaeological evaluation undertaken by CA in 2016 in the Phase 1 Area of the Culverhay development identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest (CA 2016; see Fig. 2 for location). However a small quantity of abraded and highly fragmentary pottery of 12th to 15th-century date was recovered from the subsoil within one of the excavated trenches. This material was considered most likely to derive from previous ploughing and/or manuring of cultivated fields (ibid.).
- 2.11 An archaeological evaluation undertaken in the Phase 4a Area of the development in 2019 (CA 2019a), identified a single pit containing pottery of 11th to 15th-century date, as well as fragments of domestic animal bone and charred cereal remains. The original function of this pit remains unclear; however, the presence of domestic waste within the fill of this feature suggests that it may have functioned as a refuse pit. It remains possible that this activity relates to the use of the known Saxon and Norman defences immediately to the east of site and it is broadly contemporary with the later Saxon and medieval activity seen within the wider Cricklade area (ibid.).

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 2019b). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of foundation trenches in the Phase 4a Area (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).



- 4.2 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum under accession number DZSWS: 26 – 2019. 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.

5. RESULTS (FIG 2)

- 5.1 The natural substrate, 1003, comprising compact yellow and blue clay, was revealed at an average depth of 0.8m below present ground level within the excavated foundation trenches. This was overlain by silt-clay subsoil, 1002, typically measuring 0.35m in thickness which was in turn overlain by topsoil 1001, typically measuring 0.3m in thickness. The topsoil was sealed by modern layer, 1000, comprising crushed stone, red-brick and concrete.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site (see *archaeological background* above), the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording identified no archaeological remains within the excavated foundation trenches.
- 6.2 The absence of any further medieval deposits/features, beyond the medieval pit identified during the preceding archaeological evaluation (CA 2019a), suggests that activity of this date within the Phase 4a Area is likely to be limited in both its nature and extent. It therefore appears most likely that the current site remained part of the agricultural hinterland of Cricklade until residential development of the area occurred in the last quarter of the 20th-century.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Monica Fombellida. The report was written by Monica Fombellida. The illustrations were prepared by Krissy Moore. The archive has been compiled by Monica Fombellida and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

8. REFERENCES

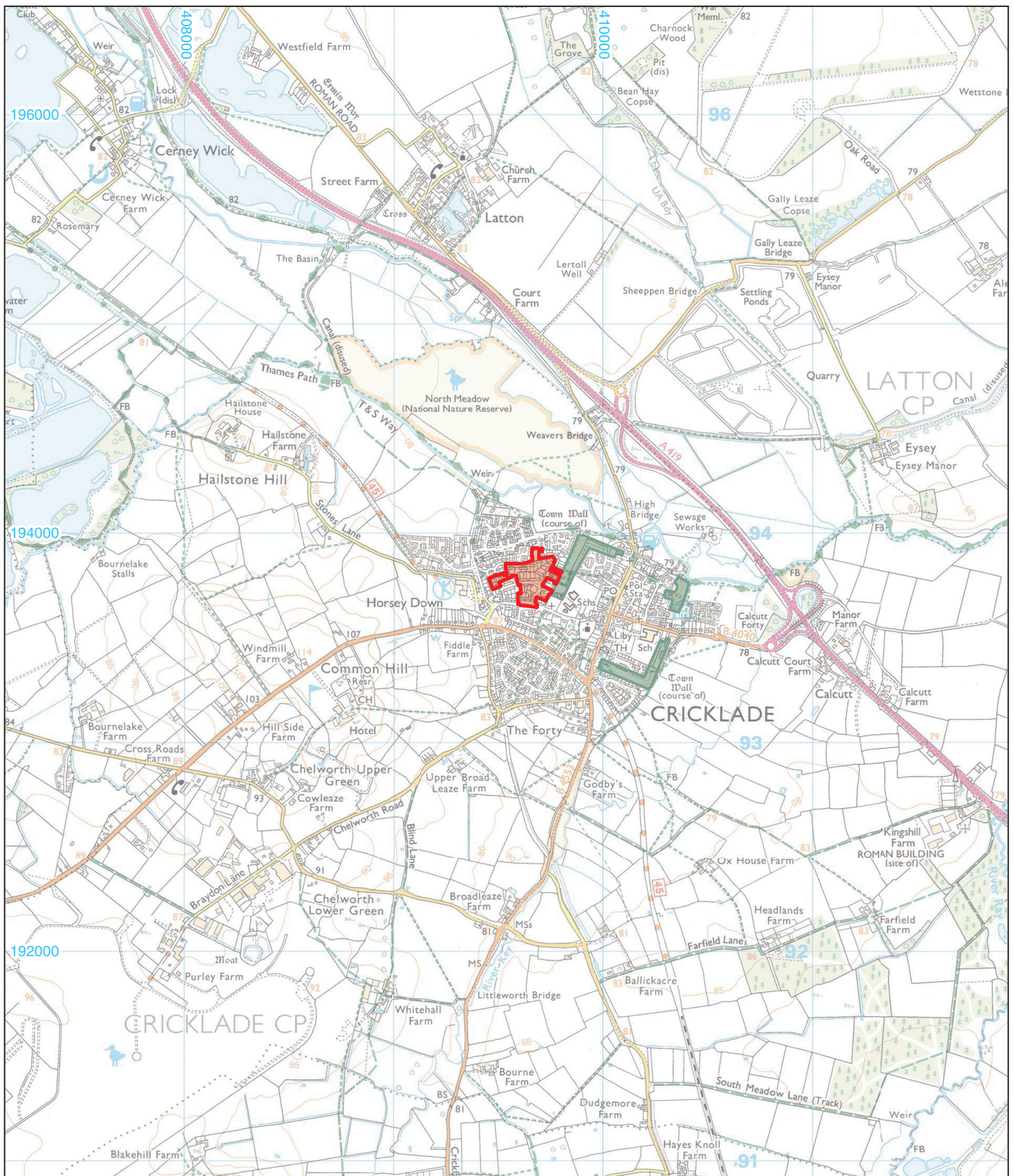
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http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 28 February 2020
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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Area. | Context No. | Type | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | D (m) | Spot-date |
|-------|-------------|-------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| 1 | 1000 | Layer | Modern make-up/levelling | Modern make-up/levelling deposit comprising crushed stone, red-brick and concrete | >1 | >0.45 | 0.15 | |
| 1 | 1001 | Layer | Topsoil | Dark grey brown clay silt | >1 | >0.45 | 0.3 | |
| 1 | 1002 | Layer | Subsoil | Mid yellow brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions throughout | >1 | >0.45 | 0.35 | |
| 1 | 1003 | Layer | Natural substrate | Compact yellow and blue clay | >1 | >0.45 | >1 | |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
| Project Name | Culverhay Regeneration (Phase 4a), Cricklade, Wiltshire | |
| Short description | <p>A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2020 on land at Culverhay Regeneration (Phase 4a), Cricklade, Wiltshire during groundworks associated with the development.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p> | |
| Project dates | 4-10 February 2020 | |
| Project type | Programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. | |
| Previous work | Archaeological Evaluation (CA 2019) | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Cricklade, Wiltshire | |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | 0.2 ha | |
| Site co-ordinates | 409776 193809 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Steven Sheldon | |
| Project Supervisor | Monica Fombellida | |
| MONUMENT TYPE | None | |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS | None | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | Intended final location of archive (museum/accession no.): | Content: |
| Paper | Wiltshire Heritage museum/ DZSWS: 26 – 2019 | Trench recording forms and photograph registers |
| Digital | Wiltshire Heritage museum/ DZSWS: 26 – 2019 | Digital photographs |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 Culverhay Regeneration (Phase 4a), Cricklade, Wiltshire: Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording. CA report CR0287_1 | | |



- Site boundary
- Cricklade Town Banks (Scheduled Monument 1002997)

0 1km

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673

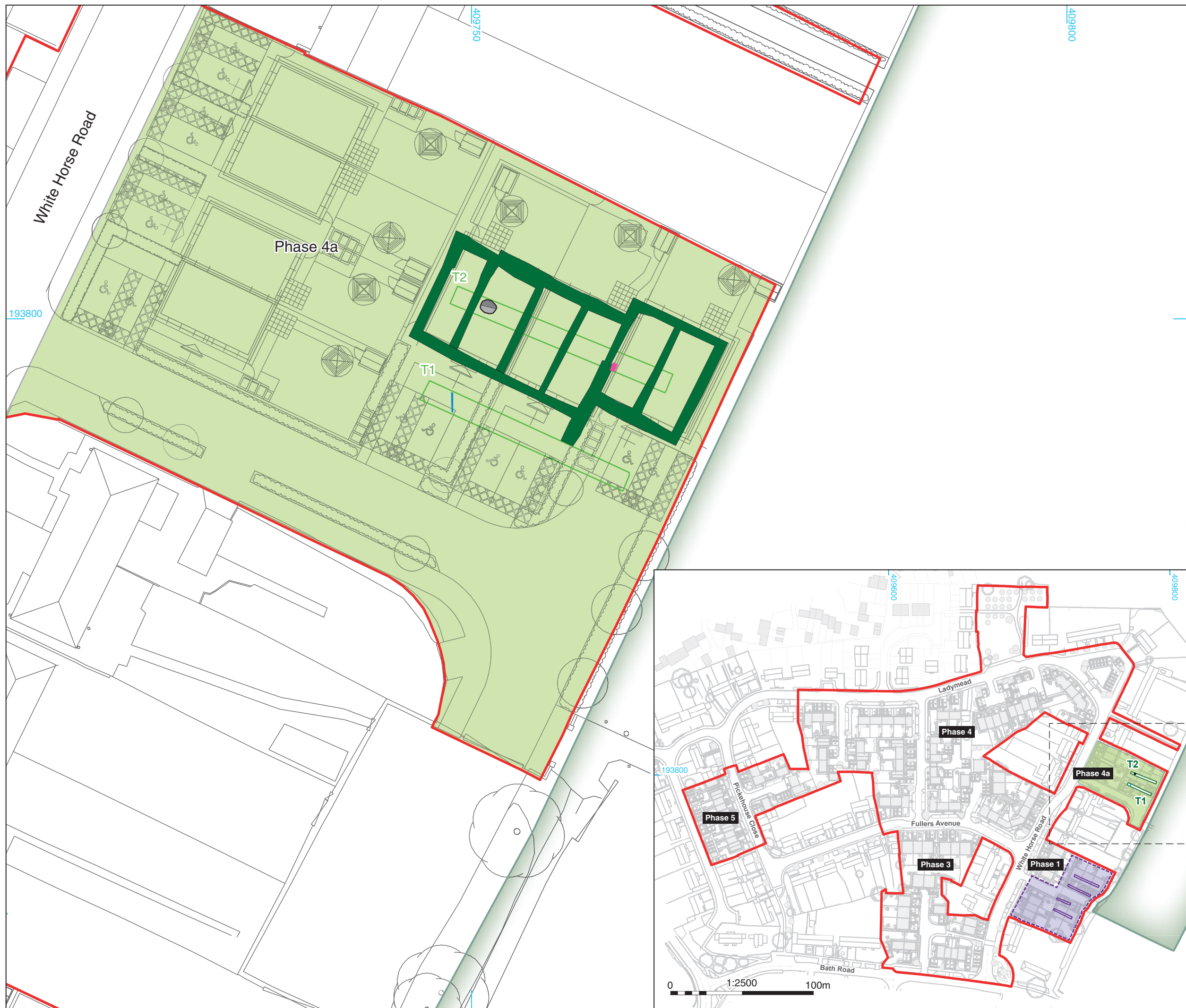


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PROJECT TITLE
Culverhay Regeneration (Phase 4a),
Cricklade, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|------------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | KM | PROJECT NO. | CR0297 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 20/02/2020 | |
| APPROVED BY | SS | SCALE@A4 | 1:25,000 | 1 |



- Site boundary
- Previous evaluation trenches (CA 2019)
- (excavated-unexcavated)
Previous archaeological feature (CA 2019)
- Area of excavated foundation trench
- Field drain
- Modern
- Extent of Phase 4a
- Cricklade Town Banks (Scheduled Monument 1002997)
- Previous evaluation trenches (CA 2016)

0 1:300 15m
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PROJECT TITLE
Culverhay Regeneration (Phase 4a),
Cricklade, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Area of observed groundworks,
showing previous evaluation trenches
and identified archaeological features

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|-------------------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | KM | PROJECT NO. | CR0287 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 20/2/2020 | 2 |
| APPROVED BY | SS | SCALE | A3 1:300 & 1:2500 | |

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