



Land at Silver Street Calne Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation





on behalf of: Assura

CA Project: CR0472 CA Report: CR0472_1

October 2020



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SUMMARY

Project name: Land at Silver Street

Location: Calne, Wiltshire

NGR: 399586 170206

Type: Evaluation

Date: 19-20 October 2020

Planning reference: 20/01057/FUL

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum Devizes and the

Archaeology Data Service (ADS)

Accession Number: DZSWS:29-2020

Site Code: SSTC20

In October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of the land at Silver Street, Calne, Wiltshire.

A total of four trenches were excavated. Out of the four trenches, one trench was archaeologically sterile, three trenches contained furrows, and a single post-medieval ditch was recorded in **Trench 3**. The environmental assessment identified slag and industrial waste within the fill of the ditch, but there is no other known evidence of industrial or domestic activity within the vicinity of the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Silver Street, Calne, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 399586 170206 (see Figure 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Rooke Associates Ltd (Bath), who are working on behalf of Assura.
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application for a new medical centre and associated development of the site, which has been made to Wiltshire Council (WC; planning ref: 20/01057/FUL).
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist, WC).
- 1.4. The evaluation was also in line with, Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation (Historic England 2015) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The proposed development site is approximately 0.6ha in extent. It lies on the north-western side of the A3102 (Silver Street), with residential dwellings bounding the site to the northeast and southeast, fields to the west and northwest, with the site boundary consisting of mature hedges and trees. The site currently comprises open pastureland and lies at approximately 95m above ordnance datum (aOD) dropping gradually away towards the north-east.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Stanford Formation (limestone). No superficial deposits were recorded.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The following is a succinct summary of the results from the desk-based assessment (CA 2020) and subsequent geophysical survey (MS2020).
- 2.2. Directly opposite the site a series of archaeological works have been undertaken in the field called Smelling's Hill, mentioned below.

- 2.3. A field walking exercise was undertaken in 1972 yielding a quantity of pottery from the Bronze Age to post-medieval period. A subsequent geophysical survey undertaken in 2010 revealed a network of linear features representing ditches oriented northwest- southeast (*ibid*).
- 2.4. During 2011, archaeological trial trenching of Smelling's Hill concluded that prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity was located on the site. The evaluation recorded a prehistoric pit and a ditch as well as a sunken floor connected to a dwelling or work area dating to the medieval period.
- 2.5. In 2017 Smelling's hill went to excavation, identifying further Bronze Age activity including a cremated burial plus limited Iron Age and Roman pottery. The excavation concluded there was Bronze Age activity on the site, possibly restricted to funerary, with a limited amount of Iron Age activity. The Roman activity on the site probably related to nearby occupation, with the later medieval features probably relating to agriculture (*ibid*).
- 2.6. Vern Leaze (formerly named Highlands) is located c.120m south-west of the site and is a grade II listed country villa. The villa and associated building sits within extensive managed grounds, with a curtilage listed lodge house called Vern Leaze Lodge is located c.50m south of the site (*ibid*).
- 2.7. A geophysical survey undertaken by Magnitude Surveys (MS 2020) identified no anomalies suggestive of significant archaeological features. However, several anomalies of an undetermined origin were recorded. A potential field boundary was identified that broadly corresponded with a feature depicted on cartographic sources.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Wiltshire Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 4 trenches measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2).
 Trench 4 was a contingency trench requested by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger.
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site. Trench 1 and 2 were moved to avoid a borehole, and to avoid excavating underneath the tree canopy, with the approval of the curator.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.4. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual.
- 4.5. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential and samples were taken in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites.
- 4.6. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with Wiltshire Museum Devizes (DZSWS:29-2020) for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B. Details of the environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are given in Section 7 and Appendix C.
- 5.2. The geological matrix was identical in all trenches, with a topsoil, subsoil and natural substrata present across the site. The natural substrata consisted of a compact clay with grey mottling and was recorded across the site at a depth of between 0.25-0.33m, this was overlaid by a subsoil with the trenches sealed by a topsoil up to a depth of 0.12-0.16m.

Trench 1 (Figures 2 and 4)

5.3. **Trench 1** was located towards the centre of the site on a rough east-west alignment. The trench contained three land drains and four furrows, with the furrows on a northwest-southeast alignment, measuring between 2.5-3m in width with a gap of 3-5m between the furrows. The spacing between the furrows, and residual white porcelain pottery is indicative of a post-medieval date.

Trench 2 (Figures 2 and 4)

5.4. Directly southwest of **Trench 1** and towards the southwest of the site, **Trench 2** was aligned northwest-southeast and contained two land drains and three furrows. The furrows were aligned northwest southeast and measured 2.8-3m in width, with a gap of 3-3.1m between furrows. The spacing between furrows is indicative of a post-medieval date.

Trench 3 (Figures 2 and 3)

- 5.5. **Trench 3** was located towards the south of the site on a northeast-southwest alignment and contained 5 land drains, a ditch (303), a single tree throw (305), and four furrows. The furrows were aligned northwest southeast and measured 1.3-1.4m in width, with a gap of 3.2-5.1m between furrows. The spacing between furrows is indicative of a post-medieval date.
- 5.6. Located towards the southwest of **Trench 3**, ditch **303** measured greater than 1.5m in length, 0.81m in width and 0.14m in depth continuing out of the trench towards the west, northwest and southeast. The feature had a concave profile with a single

fill present. The fill contained high quantities of charcoal and slag with no other dating evidence recovered. The ditch broadly correlates to a small paddock recorded in the 1899 OS County Series: Wiltshire.

5.7. Directly northeast of ditch **303**, Tree throw **305** measured greater than 0.79m in length, 0.53m in width and had a maximum recorded depth of 0.09m. The feature was uneven in plan and profile and was noticeably charcoal and slag rich. The feature was interpreted as a possible pit or a burnt out tree throw, with the latter being more plausible. The fill was similar to that recorded in ditch **303**.

Trench 4 (Figures 2 and 4)

5.8. **Trench 4** contained a single land drain with no additional features present.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material was hand-recovered from two deposits (a ditch fill and a tree throw fill). Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B.
- 6.2. Ten iron sheet fragments (80g) were retrieved from fill **306** of tree throw **305**. These are too heavily corroded and fragmentary to allow the original form or date to be ascertained.
- 6.3. A fragment of fired clay (1g) from fill **304** of ditch **303** presents in a very sandy, soft oxidised fabric with a grey core.
- 6.4. Ditch fill **304** also produced a total of 80 fragments (365g) of industrial waste, some of which is identifiable as slag from an indeterminate ironworking process.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

7.1. A single environmental sample (20 litres of soil) was processed from the possible post-medieval ditch 303 in Trench 3. This was done to ascertain the preservation on environmental remains and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. It was also hoped that the environmental remains recovered might assist in determining the date of this ditch. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No.2).

7.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1, following nomenclature of Stace (1997).

Trench 3

- 7.3. Sample 1 from ditch 303 produced a large flot with around 20% rooty material and uncharred seeds. The assemblage contained a very high number of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm and a few weed seeds including those of docks (Rumex sp.). The charcoal includes both mature and round wood frags, and some pieces were identifiable as being those of oak (Quercus sp.). A few charcoal fragments were iron impregnated and there were also a few fragments of slag/industrial waste in the sample.
- 7.4. This assemblage may be reflective of waste material from a hearth, possibly for industrial use. The charred remains provide no indication of the likely date of the ditch. There is no indication of any domestic settlement waste within this assemblage and it is likely that this ditch was away from any settlement centre.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. Although from the outset there was a strong that archaeological potential (of some date) would be encountered on the site, with fringe activity from Smelling's hill expected to continue into the field, no truly significant archaeological features were identified. The generally shallow overburden on the site, and heavily truncated post medieval furrows, would suggest that the site has been potentially levelled in the accordance with the requirements of the nearby estate, thus limiting the potential for archaeological survival.
- 8.2. The only archaeology recorded on site was ditch **303** which broadly correlates to a paddock/market garden, connected to the Vern Leaze Lodge recorded on the 1900 OS County Series Map: Wiltshire. When overlaying the map onto the current survey, there are discrepancies in measurements which can be explained by the general inaccuracies in the original mapping. The original map shows the mature woodland boundary as 3m in width, when in reality more recent measurements show the boundary closer to 12m. When these inaccuracies are taken into account, the ditch likely correlates with the late Victorian enclosure.
- 8.3. The geophysical survey identified two areas of undetermined spread within the footprint of **Trench 3**. Ditch **303** and tree throw **305** both contained high quantities

of charcoal and slag, with the latter most likely representing a burnt-out tree hollow, but there is no other evidence of industrial activity within the vicinity of the site. It is likely therefore the waste material has been spread/imported onto the site, and that this is what was provided the anomalies n the geophysical survey.

8.4. The geology of the site was expected to be Stanford Formation (limestone) with no superficial deposits; no limestone was recorded on site with the natural substrata consisting of clay throughout the site.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Bush, assisted by Katherine Hebbard. This report was written by Steve Bush. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Sarah Wyles, respectively. The report illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The project archive has been compiled by Richard Paxford, and prepared for deposition by Zoe Emery. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

10. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2020 Geology of Britain Viewer

 http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html

 Accessed 22 October 2020
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020 Land at Silver Street, Calne, Wiltshire: Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment, CA Report No. CR0228_1
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020 Land at Silver Street, Calne, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation
- MS (Magnitude Surveys) 2020 Land at Silver Street, Calne, Wiltshire: Geophysical Survey Report Magnitude Surveys Ref: MSST710
- Old maps (Old-maps.co.uk) British Map viewer https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/399500/171500/12/100566 Accessed 23 October 2020

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silt	30.2	1.8	0-0.13
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay	30.2	1.8	0.13-0.3
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown clay	30.2	1.8	0.3+
1	103	Cut		Cut of furrow	Linear in plan	1.8	2.5-3m	-
1	104	Fill	103	Fill of furrow	Mid grey clay	1.8	2.5-3m	-
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silt	30.15	1.8	0-0.12
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay	30.15	1.8	0.12-0.3
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown clay	30.15	1.8	0.223+
2	203	Cut		Cut of furrow	Linear in plan	1.5	2.8-3m	-
2	204	Fill	203	Fill of furrow	Mid grey clay	1.5	2.8-3m	-
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silt	30.4	1.8	0-0.16
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay	30.4	1.8	0.16-0.33
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown clay	30.4	1.8	0.33+
3	303	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Linear in plan with rounded sides and a concave base	1.5	0.81	0.14
3	304	Fill	303	Fill of ditch	Dark brownish blackish grey clay with frequent charcoal and slag inclusions	1.5	0.81	0.14
3	305	Cut		Cut of treethrow	Oval in plan with steep sides and an irregular base	0.79	0.53	0.09
3	306	Fill	305	Fill of treethrow	Dark brownish blackish grey clay with frequent charcoal and infrequent slag inclusions	0.79	0.53	0.09
3	307	Cut		Cut of furrow	Linear in plan	1.5	1.4	-
3	308	Fill	203	Fill of furrow	Mid grey clay	1.5	1.4	-
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silt	31.8	1.8	0-0.12
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay	31.8	1.8	0.12-0.25
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown clay	31.8	1.8	0.25+

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
304	Fired clay			1	1	-
	Industrial waste			3	13	
<1>	Industrial waste			77	352	
306	Iron	Fragment		10	80	-

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Palaeoenvironmental remains

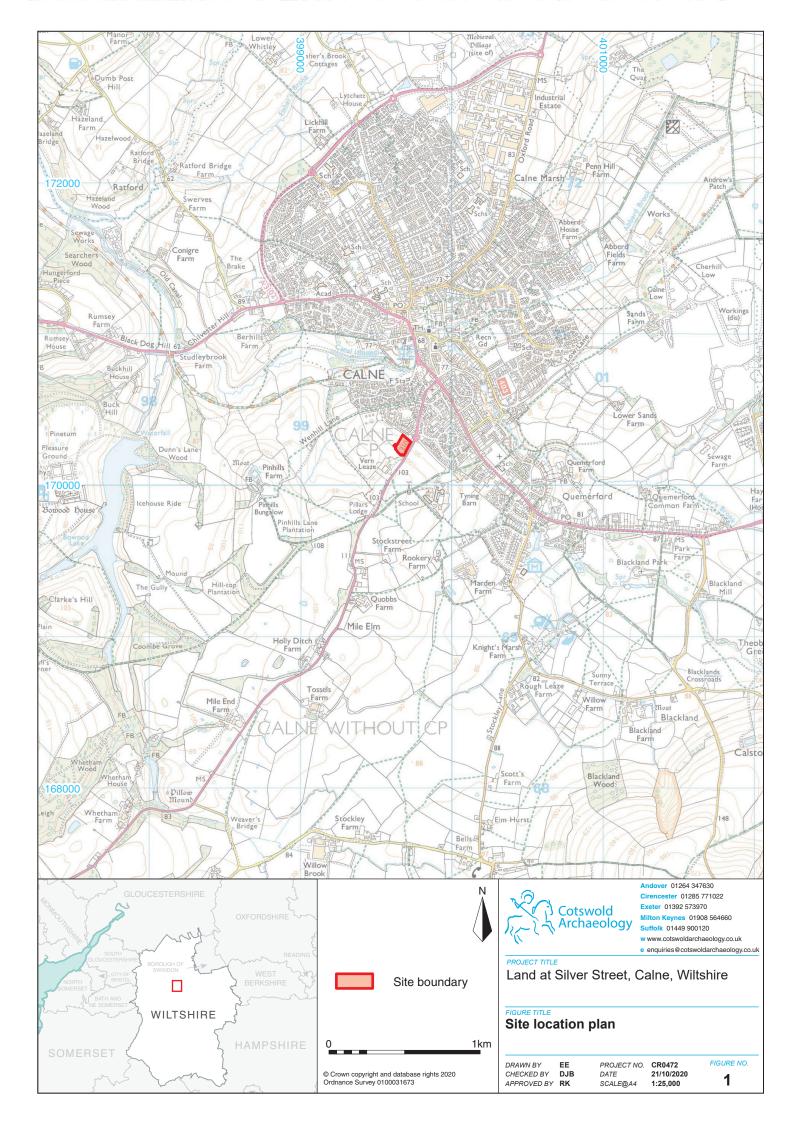
Feature Trench 3 ?Post-me	Context d ditch	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Notes on charred other	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
303	304	1	20	325	20	-	-	*	Rumex	****/****	slag/industrial waste (*)

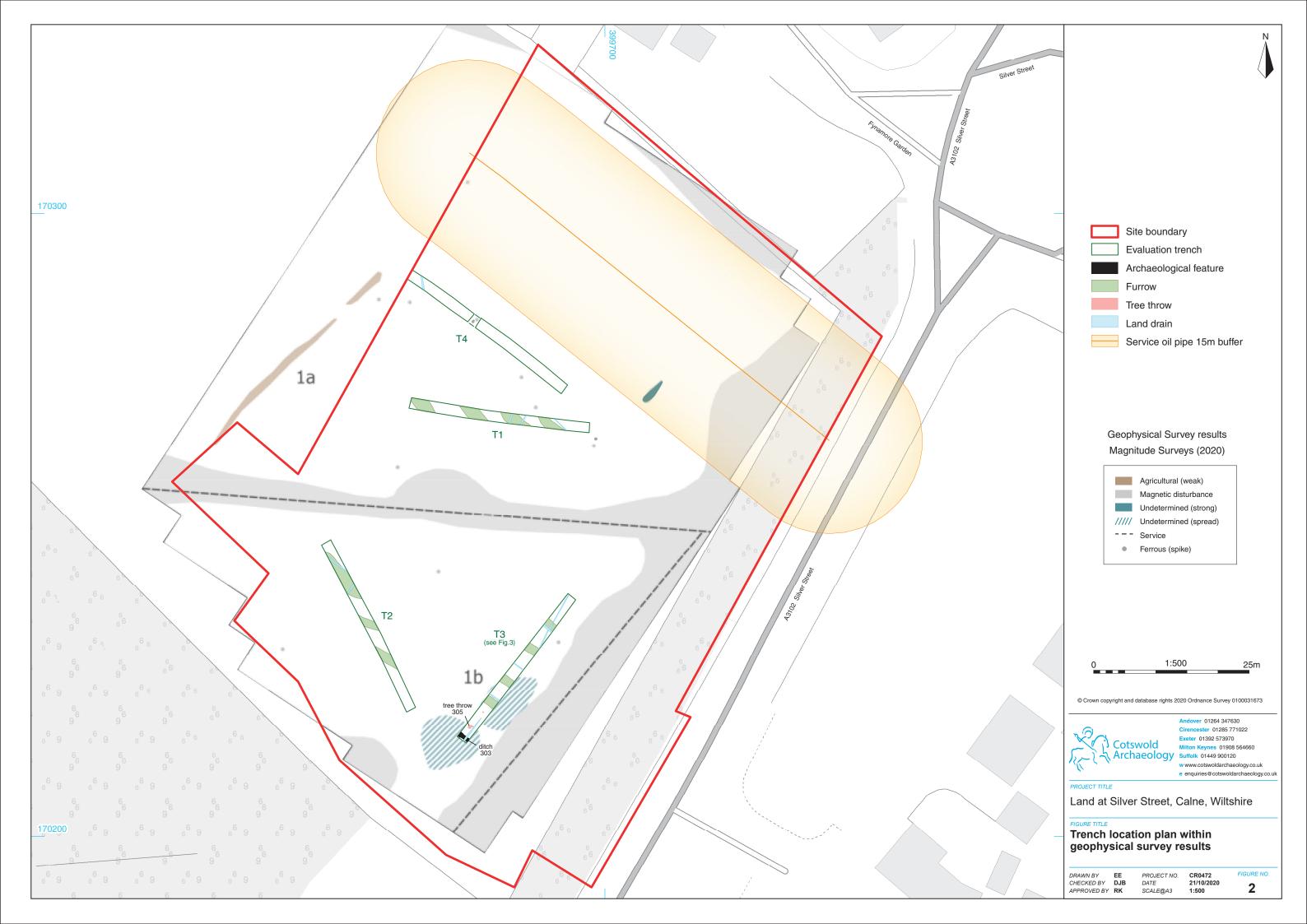
Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 4–20 items; *** = 21–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items,

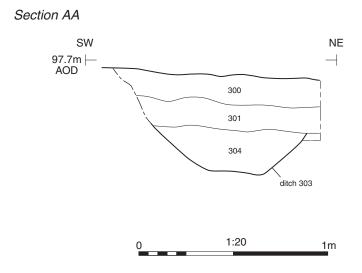
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

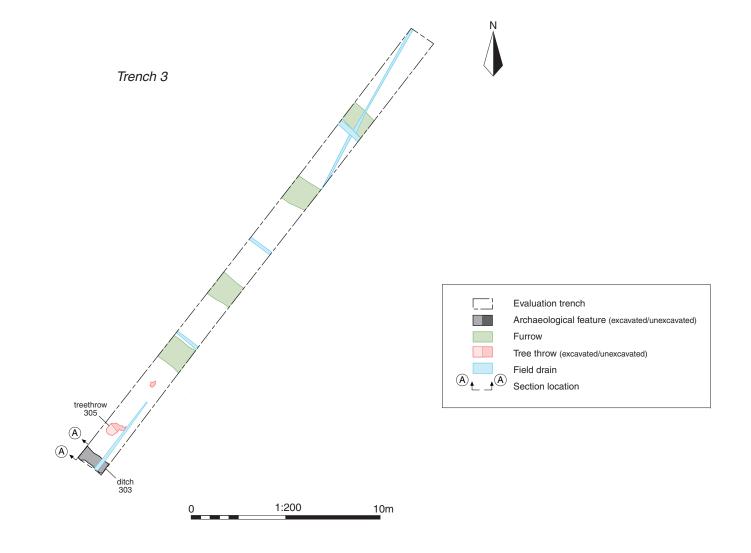
Project name	Land at Silver Street, Calne, Wiltshire						
Short description	In October 2020, Cotswold Arc	haeology carried out a					
•	archaeological evaluation of the land at Silver Street, Calnet						
		id at Silver Street, Came					
	Wiltshire. A total of four trenches were excavated. Out of the four trenches						
	one trench was archaeologically steri	le, three trenches containe					
	furrows, and a single post-medieval d						
	3. The environmental assessment in	dentified slag and industria					
	waste within the fill of the ditch, but the	here is no other evidence of					
	, and the second						
	industrial or domestic activity within the	e vicinity of the site.					
Project dates	19-20 October 2020						
Project type	Field Evaliuation						
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (MS 2020)						
Future work	Unknown						
PROJECT LOCATION	·						
Site location	Calne, Wiltshire						
Study area (m²/ha)	0.6ha						
Site co-ordinates	399586 170206						
PROJECT CREATORS							
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology						
Project brief originator	Wiltshire Council						
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology						
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy						
Project Supervisor	Steven Bush						
MONUMENT TYPE	Ditch						
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Slag						
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery,					
	(museum/Accession no.)	animal bone etc)					
	Wiltshire Museum Devizes	Indicate the contents					
	(DZSWS:29-2020)	of each archive box					
Physical		For example ceramics,					
Danas		animal bone etc					
Paper		Context sheets, matrice etc					
Digital		Database, digital photos					
BIBLIOGRAPHY	1	1					
	Silver Street, Calne, Wiltshire: Archaeological E	Valuation CA typescript					

14

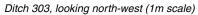














Tree throw 305, looking north, (0.4m scale)



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Land at Silver Street, Calne, Wiltshire

Trench 3: plan, section and photographs

DRAWN BY EE
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY RK

 PROJECT NO.
 CR0472

 DATE
 21/10/2020

 SCALE@A3
 1:200 / 1:20



Trench 1, looking east (1m scales)



Trench 2, looking north-west, (1m scales)



Trench 4, looking north-west (1m scales)



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Land at Silver Street, Calne, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 1, 2 and 4

DRAWN BY EE
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APPROVED BY RK

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 SCALE@A3
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