

# Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire

## *Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
EDP

on behalf of  
Rainer Developments Ltd

Accession Number DZSWS:37-2020

CA Project: CR0520  
CA Report: CR0520\_1

October 2020



# Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire

## *Archaeological Evaluation*

CA Project: CR0520  
CA Report: CR0520\_1

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A	19/10/20	Adam H	Ray Kennedy	Internal review	General Edit	Richard Greateorex

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<b>Cirencester</b> Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ  t. 01285 771 022	<b>Milton Keynes</b> Unit 8, The IO Centre Fingle Drive Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT  t. 01908 564 660	<b>Andover</b> Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH  t. 01264 347 630	<b>Exeter</b> Unit 1, Clyst Units Cofton Road Marsh Barton Exeter EX2 8QW  t. 01392 573 970	<b>Suffolk</b> Unit 5, Plot 11 Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ  t. 01449 900 120
e. <a href="mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk">enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk</a>				

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project name:</b>	Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire
<b>Location:</b>	Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire
<b>NGR:</b>	398808, 171135
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	14-16 October 2020
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum Devizes and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
<b>Accession Number:</b>	DZSWS: 37-2020
<b>Site Code:</b>	CHIV20

In October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire. A total of 12 trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered. Several of the linear geophysical results corresponded to land drains within Trench 10. A number of the other geophysical linears appeared to conform to the natural banding of the underlying clay geology, this was especially noticeable within Trench 3.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 398808, 171135 (see Figure 1). This evaluation was undertaken for The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of Rainier Developments Ltd.
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform an outline planning application for residential development, including access, new planting and landscaping at Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire which will be made to Wiltshire Council.
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Michal Cepak (Assistant County Archaeologist) the archaeological advisor to Wiltshire Council. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2019) and approved by Michal Cepak.
- 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 site is located on the western edge of the settlement of Calne, to the south of the A4. The site measures c.1.8ha. The site comprises a single agricultural field bounded by hedgerows and tree planting on the western and south-western sides. To the north is the A4. There is woodland located to the south and further agricultural land to the west.
- 1.6. The site gently slopes downward from west to east, with the highest part of the site laying on its western side at a height of c.86m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), before sloping eastwards to c.78m aOD in the south-eastern corner.
- 1.7. The underlying solid geology consisting of Kingston Formation sandstone and mudstone and Stanford Formation limestone, with no identified superficial deposits BGS (2020). This evaluation identified clay natural geology.

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## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The archaeological background given below is a succinct summary of a EDP Archaeological and Heritage Assessment (2020) of the site.

### *Palaeolithic–Iron Age (c.500,000 BC–AD 43)*

- 2.2. There are no evidence of prehistoric activity within the site, although one undated record within the site may relate to prehistoric activity. Within the wider vicinity of the site a Mesolithic flint assemblage was recovered from a garden 0.7km to the south-west, and a second Mesolithic flint assemblage was recovered from a garden in Calne, 0.5km to the south-east of the site.
- 2.3. A Bronze Age burial was found in the 19<sup>th</sup> century within Calne, 0.7km to the north-east of the site; and an Iron Age settlement 0.5km to the north,

### *Roman*

- 2.4. There is no evidence of Roman activity within the site. Within the wider vicinity a Romano-British villa is known 1km to the south-west; and finds of Roman pottery 0.9km to the east, and 0.35km to the south-west , and tesserae 0.35km to the north-west.

### *Medieval*

- 2.5. The medieval settlement of Chilvester lies to the west of the site, in the form of earthworks. This area was the subject of fieldwork, comprising an earthwork survey, soil strip of a compound and watching brief in advance of a pipeline construction in 2012 (Context One 2012).
- 2.6. The earthwork survey mapped linear features along with two possible house platforms and a pond. The strip of the compound area, 70m west of the site, exposed a truncated wall footing and metaled track, of probable medieval date. The pipeline route across the remainder of the area revealed a Holloway but no other features.

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### **Post-Medieval**

- 2.7. There is no evidence of post-medieval activity within the site. The Calne Branch canal runs within 0.2km of the south of the site. The disused Calne and Chippenham Railway ran 0.5km to the south of the site.

### **Recent works**

- 2.8. A magnetometry survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd (2020) on land to the south of Chilvester Hill on the outskirts of Calne, Wiltshire. The survey located a number of curvilinear anomalies that although weak and indistinct, could relate to cut features. Other weak, short and fragmented positive linear and discrete anomalies lacked a coherent morphology and cannot be confidently interpreted. The south western part of the site contains magnetic debris possibly relating to a demolished 19th century farm building and/or modern ground make-up or dumping.

## **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).
- 3.2. A magnetometry survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd (2020) and the specific objective of the evaluation was to investigate the geophysical anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey.

## **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 12 trenches (Fig. 2):
- 10no 30m x 1.8m trenches (Trenches 1 to 10);
  - 2no 15m x 1.8 trenches (Trenches 11 and 12)
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.

- 
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS (specify alternative setting out method if not by 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. Trenches were scanned, prior to excavation of the trenches, using a metal detector by an appropriately qualified member of staff. Following the excavation of the trenches, the spoil heaps were also scanned.
- 4.5. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.6. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with Wiltshire Museum Devizes for the deposition of the project archive. 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* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, 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.
- 5.2. The metal detecting of the trenches prior to excavation revealed no artefacts of archaeological interest.
- 5.3. No archaeology was identified during the course of the evaluation. The underlying natural geology consisted of a silty-clay with bands of blue/grey, and yellow/brown colouration (0.39 to 0.57m below present ground level). This was sealed by subsoil which consisted of a mid-brown/grey friable silty-clay which was between 0.14m

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and 0.29m thick. All of the trenches were sealed by topsoil (which was between 0.09 and 0.3m thick).

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the wider environs of the site no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard, assisted by Chris Brown and Kathrine Hebbard. This report was written by Adam Howard. The report illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxford. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

## 8. REFERENCES

Archaeological Surveys Ltd, 2020, *Land at Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire, Magnetometer Survey Report*

British Geological Survey 2020 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> Accessed 23 October 2020

Context One, 2012, *Wans Corner to Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire, Geophysical and Earthworks Surveys and Archaeological Watching Brief.*

Cotswold Archaeology, 2020 *Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

EDP, 2020, *Chilvester Hill, Calne Archaeological and Heritage Assessment edp5688\_r002a*

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silt, loose	30	2	0.21
1	101	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable	30	2	0.27
1	102	layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown with grey mottling, clay, friable	30	2	0.04
2	200	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silt, loose	30	2	0.09
2	201	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable	30	2	0.34
2	202	layer		Natural	Mid grey with yellowish brown mottling, clay, friable	30	2	0.09
3	300	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silt, loose	30	2	0.26
3	301	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable	30	2	0.14
3	302	layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown with grey mottling, clay, friable	30	2	0.14
4	400	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silt, loose	30	2	0.26
4	401	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable	30	2	0.14
4	402	layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown with grey mottling, clay, friable	30	2	0.23
5	500	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silt, loose	30	2	0.2
5	501	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable	30	2	0.19
5	502	layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown with grey mottling, clay, friable	30	2	0.13
6	600	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silt, loose	30	2	0.24
6	601	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable	30	2	0.29
6	602	layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown with grey mottling, clay, friable	30	2	0.16
7	700	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silt, loose	30	2	0.29
7	701	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable	30	2	0.28
<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth/thickness (m)</b>
7	702	layer		Natural	Mid grey with yellowish	30	2	0.09

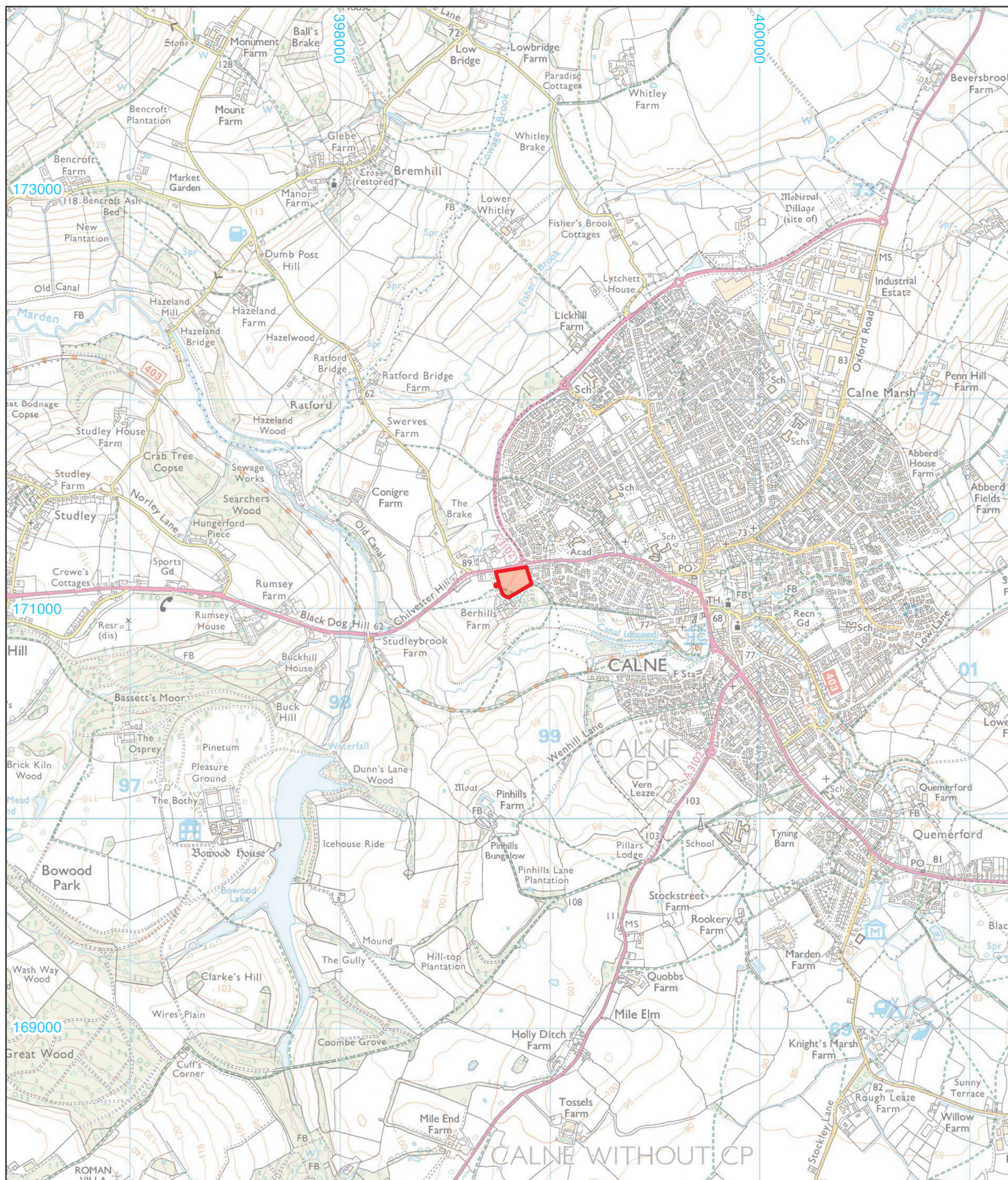


					brown mottling, clay, friable			
8	800	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silt, loose	30	2	0.3
8	801	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable	30	2	0.19
8	802	layer		Natural	Mid grey with yellowish brown mottling, clay, friable	30	2	0.16
9	900	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silt, loose	30	2	0.29
9	901	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable	30	2	0.23
9	902	layer		Natural	Mid grey with yellowish brown mottling, clay, friable	30	2	0.12
10	1001	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silt, loose	30	2	0.25
10	1002	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable	30	2	0.29
10	1003	layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown with grey mottling, clay, friable	30	2	0.11
11	1100	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silt, loose	30	2	0.2
11	1101	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable	30	2	0.19
11	1102	layer		Natural	Mid grey with yellowish brown mottling, clay, friable	30	2	0.11
12	1103	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silt, loose	30	2	0.14
12	1103	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable	30	2	0.21
12	1103	layer		Natural	Mid grey with yellowish brown mottling, clay, friable	30	2	0.13

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Chilvester Hill Calne Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>In October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire. A total of 12 trenches were excavated</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered. Several of the linear geophysical results corresponded to land drains within Trench 10. A number of the other geophysical linears appeared to conform to the natural banding of the underlying clay geology, this was especially noticeable within Trench 3.</p>	
Project dates	14-16 October 2020	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Archaeological Surveys Ltd, 2020, Land at Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire, Magnetometer Survey Report	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Chilvester Hill, Calne, Wiltshire	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1.8ha	
Site co-ordinates	398808, 171135	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Adam Howard	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Intended final location of archive</b>	<b>Content</b>
Physical	Wiltshire Museum Devizes/ DZSWS:37-2020	none
Paper	Wiltshire Museum Devizes/ DZSWS:37-2020	Trench sheets, photographic register
Digital	Wiltshire Museum Devizes/ DZSWS:37-2020	Database, digital photos, survey data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 <i>Chilvester Hill Calne Wiltshire Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report <b>CR0520</b>		





Site boundary

0 1km

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**Cotswold  
Archaeology**

Andover 01264 347630  
Cirencester 01285 771022  
Exeter 01392 573970  
Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
Suffolk 01449 900120  
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

PROJECT TITLE

Chilvester Hill, Colne, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

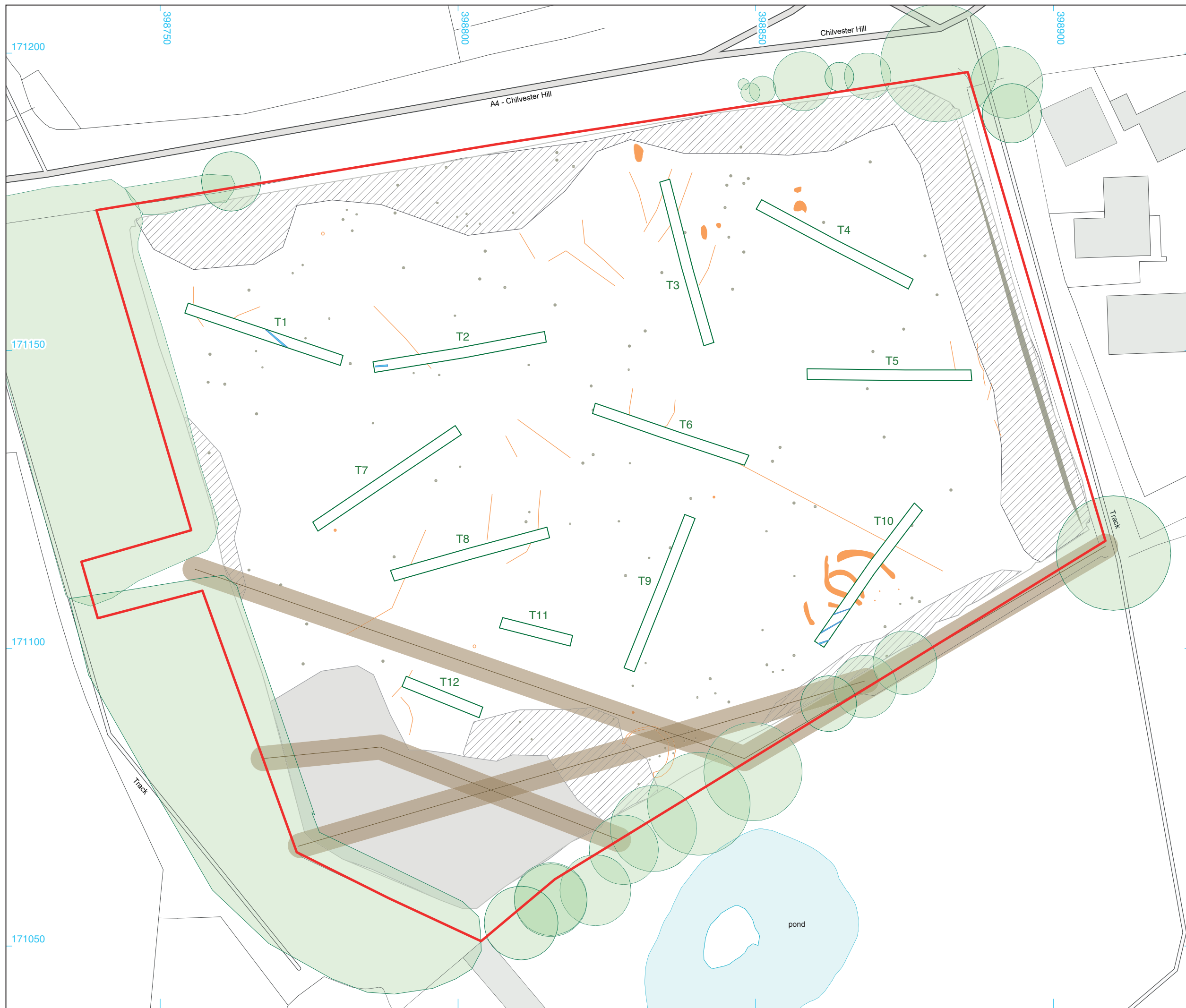
Site location plan

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APPROVED BY RK  
PROJECT NO. CR0520  
DATE 22/10/2020  
SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1





- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Field drain
- Public right of way 3m buffer
- Tree protection buffer

- Geophysical survey results  
Archaeological Surveys (2020)
- Positive linear anomaly  
possible ditch-like feature
  - Discrete positive response  
possible pit-like feature
  - Magnetic debris - spread of  
magnetically thermoremnant  
ferrous material
  - Magnetic disturbance from  
ferrous material
  - Strong dipolar anomaly  
ferrous object

0 1:600 30m

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**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  
Chilvester Hill, Colne, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE  
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY	EE DJB RK	PROJECT NO. DATE SCALE@A3	CR0520 22/10/2020 1:600	FIGURE NO. 2
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Trench 1, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 3, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 7, looking south-west (1m scales)



Trench 10, looking south-west (1m scales)



Trench 12, looking north-west (1m scales)



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 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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 SCALE@A3

FIGURE NO. 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](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

