

Land adjacent to Waitrose Malmesbury Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Ms Orysya Lyvchanyn

CA Project: CR0397
CA Report: CR0397_1
Accession number: DZSWS:44-2020

December 2020



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Malmesbury
Wiltshire**
Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land adjacent to Waitrose, Malmesbury, Wiltshire
Location:	Malmesbury, Wiltshire
NGR:	393717 186981
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	25–26 November 2020
Planning reference:	20/04863/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Accession Number:	DZSWS:44-2020
Site Code:	WAIT20

In November 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Waitrose, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. A total of 6 trenches were excavated.

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.

There was extensive evidence of the dumping of redeposited natural bedrock across the site, possibly associated with the construction of the adjacent Waitrose supermarket, or the Malmesbury by-pass. While no archaeology was encountered across the site, it is possible that the redeposited natural which extended to 2m below present ground level is masking archaeological features at depth.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In November 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Waitrose, Malmesbury, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 393717 186981 (see Figure 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Ms Orysya Lyvchanyn.
- 1.2. The results of the evaluation will inform a planning application for the construction of Gabion Wall and Infilling, which has been made to Wiltshire Council (WC; planning ref: 20/04863/FUL). A geophysical survey (AS 2020) has previously been completed to accompany this application.
- 1.3. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2019) and approved by Mike Cepak (Assistant County Archaeologist) the archaeological advisor to Wiltshire Council.
- 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 immediately to the west of the A429 (Malmesbury by-pass) and currently comprises a single parcel of grassland. It is bounded to the east by the A429, to the south by a Waitrose supermarket and to the north and west by a confluence of the Tetbury and Sherston branches of the River Avon. The site lies at approximately 74m aOD and is broadly level.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Forest Marble Formation - Mudstone, which formed in the Jurassic Period (BGS 2020). This is overlain by superficial deposits of Alluvium - Clay, Silt, Sand And Gravel of the Quaternary Period.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site has previously been subject to geophysical survey (AS 2020). The following is a brief summary of this assessment, along with any publicly available information pertinent to the site.
- 2.2. A geophysical survey (AS 2011) and subsequent archaeological trial-trench evaluation (NA 2011) were undertaken immediately to the south of the current site prior to the development of the Waitrose superstore. The evaluation trenching identified a number of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British ditches and pits, indicative of settlement activity, as well as post-medieval field boundaries (ibid.). These features were concentrated in the southern part of the evaluated area and no archaeological features (excepting a probable former field boundary of postmedieval date) were identified in the northern part of the evaluated area (i.e. that closest to the current site).
- 2.3. The geophysical survey of the current site (AS 2020) identified widespread magnetic debris, most probably derived from modern dumping or ground make-up, across the majority of the site. A small number of weak discrete responses and some possible linear anomalies were observed within the area of the magnetic debris; however it is not possible to determine if these anomalies relate to cut features or are associated with the magnetic debris (ibid.).

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. The specific objective of the evaluation was to investigate the geophysical anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey (AS 2020).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 6 trenches (Figure 2):
 - 6no 20m x 1.8m trenches
- 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. 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. Machining was stopped in 5 of the 6 trenches at 1.2m for H & S reasons. Several trenches contained extensive evidence of the deposition of redeposited natural, and the natural was not encountered in 5 of the 6 trenches. Sondages were dug in **Trenches 5** and **6** to ascertain the depth of the natural.
- 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. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with Wiltshire Museum 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. The underlying natural geology was possibly only encountered in **Trench 3** and consisted of a mid-yellow orange sandy clay with sub-angular stone inclusions (0.79m below present ground level). This was sealed by a made ground layer of yellowish grey firm clay, 0.6m thick, and a dark grey silty clay topsoil.
- 5.4. Within the remaining trenches, **Trenches 1, 2, 4-6** the natural geology was not encountered. Sondages were dug in **Trenches 5** and **6** which revealed that natural at 1.9m below present ground level.
- 5.5. No archaeology was identified during the evaluation.

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.
- 6.2. There was extensive evidence of the dumping of redeposited natural material across the site, possibly associated with the construction of the adjacent Waitrose supermarket or the Malmesbury by-pass. While no archaeology was encountered across the site, it is possible that the redeposited natural which extended to 2m below present ground level is masking archaeological features.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Francesco Catanzaro, assisted by Majbritt Bengtson and Chris Brown. This report was written by Ray Kennedy. The report illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The project archive has been compiled by Richard Paxford and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

8. REFERENCES

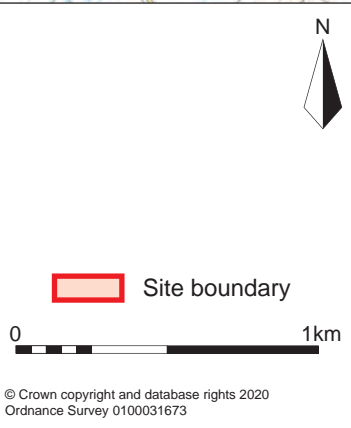
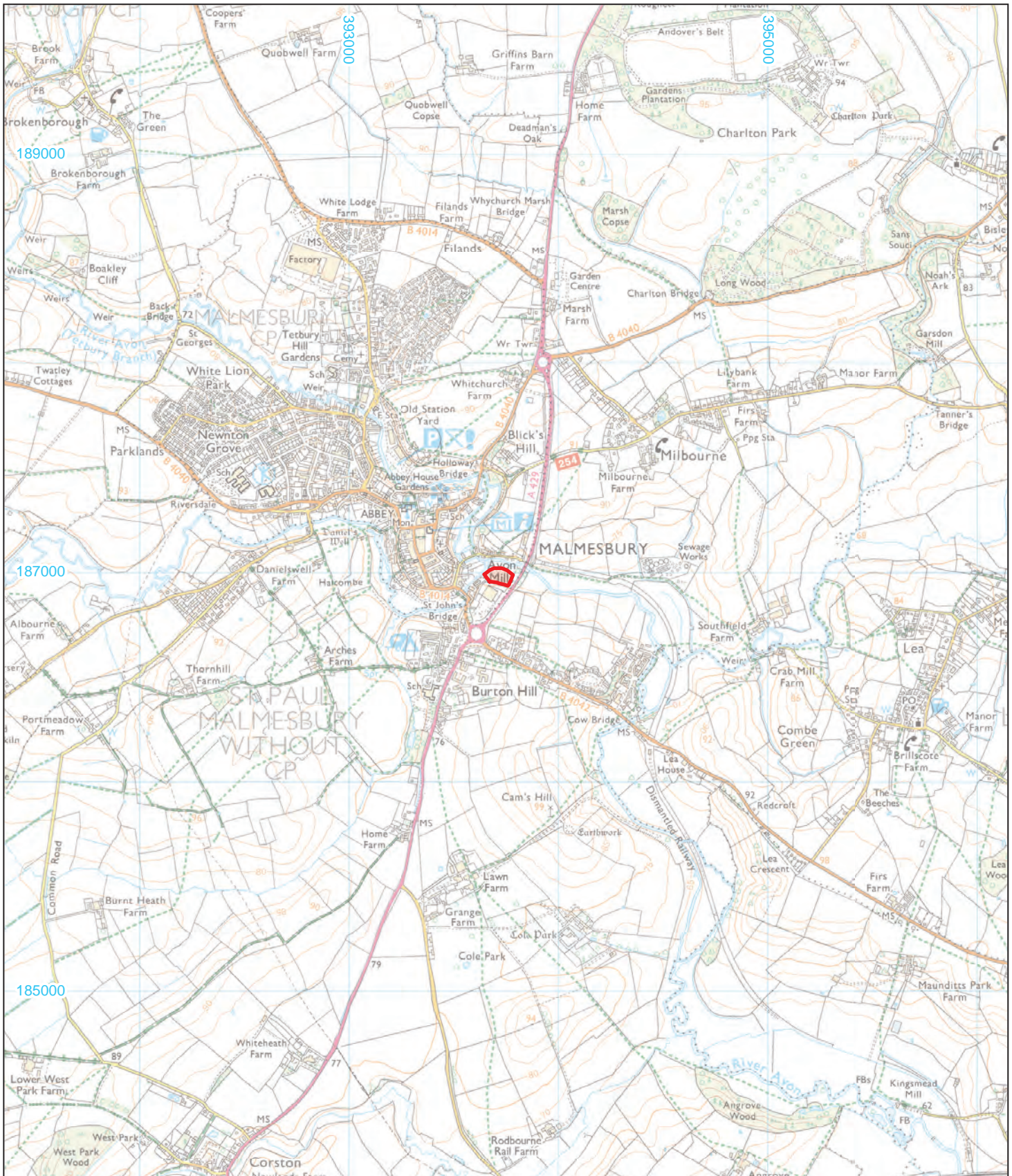
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- Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) 2011 Archaeological Evaluation of land at Avon Mills, Malmesbury, Wiltshire NA Report Ref. 11/254
- Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2019 National Planning Policy Framework

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay	20	1.9	0-0.34
1	101	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellowish grey firm clay	20	1.9	0.34-1
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mid/pale yellow grey silty clay	20	1.9	1+
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay	20	1.9	0-0.3
2	201	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellowish grey firm clay	20	1.9	0.3-1.1+
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay	20	1.9	0-0.2
3	301	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellowish grey firm clay	20	1.9	0.2-0.79
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow orange sandy clay with sub-angular stone inclusions	20	1.9	0.79+
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey clayey sand	20	1.9	0-0.25
4	401	Layer		Made ground	Light yellowish sandy clay/gravel	20	1.9	0.25-0.75
4	402	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellow green clay with dark grey mottling	20	1.9	0.75-1+
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey clayey sand	20	1.9	0-0.2
5	501	Layer		Made ground	Light yellowish sandy clay/gravel	20	1.9	0.2-0.45
5	502	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellow green clay with dark grey mottling	20	1.9	0.45-1.35+
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey clayey sand	20	1.9	0-0.2
6	601	Layer		Made ground	Light yellowish sandy clay/gravel	20	1.9	0.2-0.7
6	602	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellow green clay with dark grey mottling	20	1.9	0.7-1.9+

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land adjacent to Waitrose, Malmesbury, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>In November 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Waitrose, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. A total of 6 trenches were excavated. 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.</p> <p>There was extensive evidence of the dumping of redeposited natural material across the site, possibly associated with the construction of the adjacent Waitrose supermarket, or the Malmesbury by-pass. While no archaeology was encountered across the site, it is possible that the redeposited natural which extended to 2m below present ground level is masking archaeological features.</p>	
Project dates	25-26 November 2020	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	AS (Archaeological Surveys) 2011 Land to the rear of Avon Mills, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Magnetometer Survey Report. AS Report Ref. 378	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land adjacent to Waitrose, Malmesbury, Wiltshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	393717 186981	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Francesco Catanzaro	
MONUMENT TYPE		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
	Wiltshire Museum DZSWS:44-2020	
Physical		
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 <i>Land adjacent to Waitrose, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report CR0397_1		



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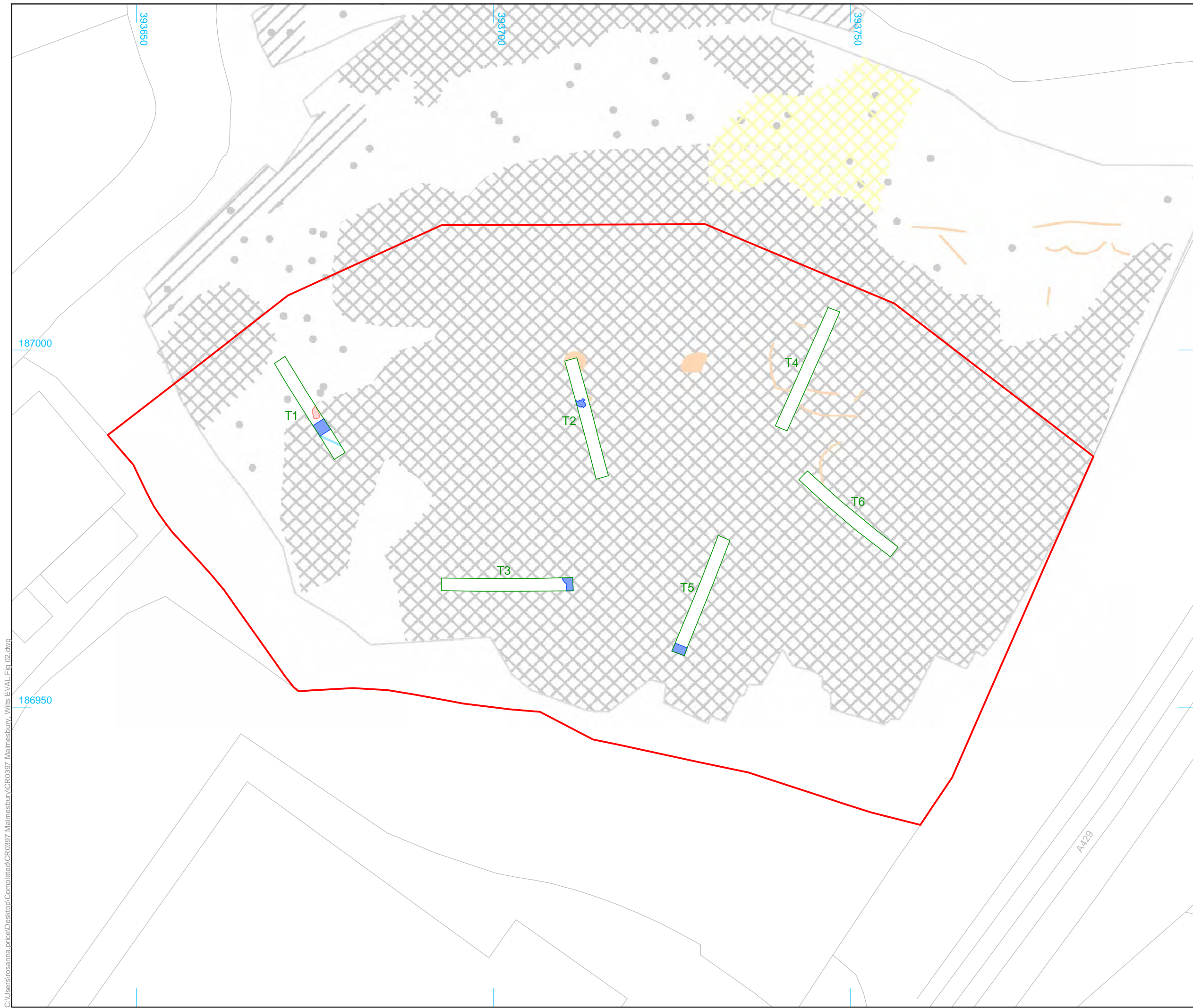
PROJECT TITLE
 Land adjacent to Waitrose, Malmesbury
 By-Pass, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

FIGURE NO.
 1

DRAWN BY RP **PROJECT NO.** CR0397
CHECKED BY DJB **DATE** 27.11.20
APPROVED BY RK **SCALE**@A4 1:25,000

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Field drain
- Modern
- Treethrow

Geophysics Key
(Archaeological Surveys, 2020)

- Positive linear anomaly of uncertain origin
- Discrete positive response of certain origin
- Variable magnetic response of natural origin
- Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremanent /ferrous material
- Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong bipolar anomaly - ferrous object



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PROJECT TITLE
Land adjacent to Waitrose, Malmesbury By-Pass, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing geophysical survey results

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CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 27.11.20	2
APPROVED BY RK	SCALE @A3 1:500	

C:\Users\rosanna.price\Desktop\Completed\CR0397 Malmesbury\CR0397 Malmesbury - Willis EVAL Fig. 02.dwg



3

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



4

Trench 2, looking south-east (1m scales)



5

Trench 3, looking west (1m scales)



6

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


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 1 - 4: photographs

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7

Trench 5, looking north-east (1m scales)



8

Trench 6, looking north-west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land adjacent to Waitrose, Malmesbury
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FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 5 & 6: photographs

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FIGURE NO.

7 & 8

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