

Land West of Stonehouse (Area C) Stroud Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
CgMs Consulting

CA Project: CR0020
CA Report: 17757

April 2019



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A	25 January 2018	Peter Busby and Luke Brannlund	Richard Young	Draft		Cliff Bateman
B	16 March 2018	Peter Busby and Luke Brannlund	Richard Young	Final	Consultant comment	Cliff Bateman
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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land West of Stonehouse (Area C)
Location:	Stroud, Gloucestershire
NGR:	378973 206543
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	12 September 2017 – 04 March 2019
Planning Reference:	Stroud District Council (SDC) S14/0810/OUT
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Museum in the Park, Stroud
Site Code:	WOS 17

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the mixed development of residential and commercial/industrial units and associated infrastructure on land west of Stonehouse (Area C), Stroud, Gloucestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between September 2017 and March 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for CgMs Consulting on land west of Stonehouse (Area C), Stroud, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 378973 206543; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Stroud District Council (SDC) for a mixed use development comprising up to 1,350 dwellings as well as commercial/industrial units and associated infrastructure (SDC Planning ref: SDC S14/0810/OUT; condition 11).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (CgMs 2017) based on recommendations by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), archaeological advisor to SDC, and with a subsequent detailed *Method Statement* (MS) produced by CA (2017) and approved by SDC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014). This report only covers work within Area C. Archaeological works required within other parcels of the site will be the subject of separate method statements and reports.

The site

- 1.3 The development area as a whole is approximately 98ha in extent, comprising predominately agricultural land to the west of Stonehouse. Area C is approximately 0.6ha in extent and is located within the centre of the development area. It comprises agricultural land. The site lies at approximately 35m AOD, sloping down to the south-west.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods with superficial deposits of Sand and Gravel (BGS 2019). The natural substrate encountered during the watching brief comprised orange yellow clay overlying blue grey clay.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological potential of the proposed development has been examined in a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2012), geophysical survey (Bartlett-Clark

Consultancy 2013) and archaeological evaluation (Headland Archaeology (HA) 2013). The conclusions of these reports are briefly discussed below.

- 2.2 The initial desk-based study identified limited potential for prehistoric or Roman activity within the development site. Subsequent geophysical survey and trial trenching has, however, revealed a small ditched enclosure approximately 300m to the south-south-east of Area C, with some evidence of associated field systems to the east (HA 2013). Further artefactual material from this period was recovered within or in the immediate vicinity of Area C, but this was thought to be residual (*ibid*).
- 2.3 A limited potential for any archaeological activity during the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods was identified in the initial desk-based study, with the area being of agricultural use during this time.
- 2.4 Cartographic evidence depicts the site as having remained predominately in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval and Modern period, although some small areas of gravel extraction were noted. Such use was broadly reflected through the results of field evaluation which recorded a number of former field boundaries and associated agricultural features (HA 2013). A more concentrated focus of activity of this period was noted adjacent to Nupend Farm, which lies close to Area C, and this is considered likely to relate to the former use of this area as allotments between c.1930 to 1980 (*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 Method Statement (CA 2017) and WSI (CgMs 2017). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the stripping of the spine road and a later extension through Area C and the excavation of deep service trenches along the road corridor (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the Museum in the Park, Stroud. 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 (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief and detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 Natural geological substrate consisting of orange yellow clay, overlying blue grey clay, was revealed within all trenches at an average depth of 0.45m below present ground level. This was overlain by subsoil consisting of green brown clay, which was in turn sealed by topsoil.
- 5.3 At the western end of the area a number of north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east orientated furrows were observed cutting the natural substrate. The fill of the furrows was very similar to the overlying subsoil, 1001. Nineteenth and twentieth century pottery sherds were observed in both the topsoil and subsoil, but were not retained.
- 5.4 A modern north-east/south-west orientated field boundary, depicted on the Ordnance Survey maps throughout the twentieth century, was observed at the western end of the area.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above); the watching brief identified only a north-east/south-west orientated field boundary depicted on modern mapping and an area of ridge and furrow cultivation to the east of it. The only artefacts recovered from the area were nineteenth and twentieth century in date. It is therefore probable that the prehistoric and Roman settlement identified to the south-south-east didn't extend as far as Area C.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber, Noel Boothroyd, Peter Busby and Liam Wilson. The report was written by Peter Busby assisted by Luke Brannlund, Liam Wilson and Sara-Jayne Boughton. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero and Aleks Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

8. REFERENCES

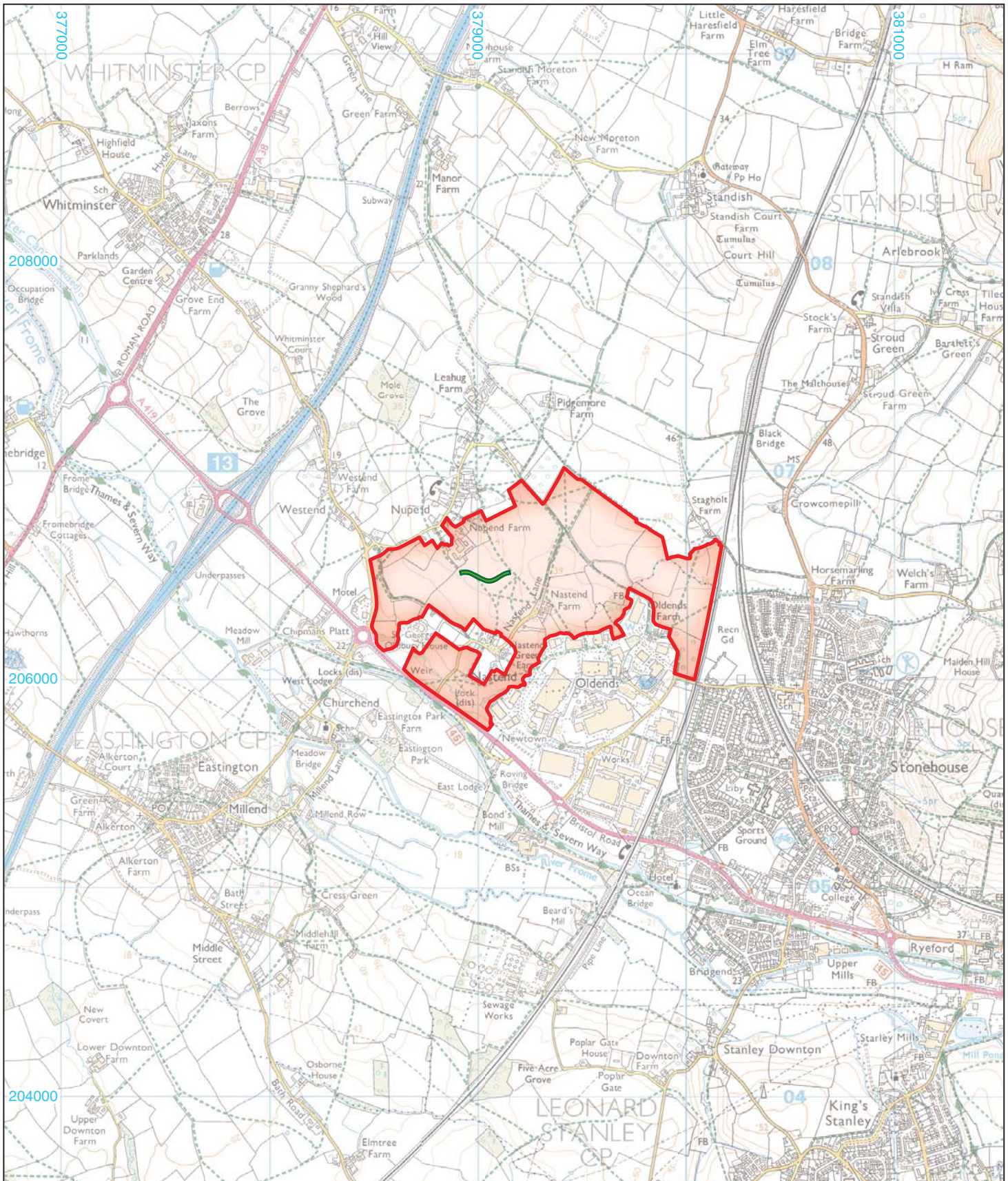
- Bartlett-Clark Consultancy 2013 *Land North of Stroudwater, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire: Geophysical Survey*
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 6 March 2019
- Cotswold Archaeology (CA) 2017 *Land West of Stonehouse (Area C), Stroud, Gloucestershire: Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- CgMs (CgMs Consulting) 2017 *Land West of Stonehouse, Stroud, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Mitigation*
- HA (Headland Archaeology) 2013 *Land North of Stroudwater, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Trial Trenching*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	>215	>14	0.3
1	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Green brown clay	>215	>14	0.32
1	1002	Layer		Natural	Orange yellow clay overlying blue grey clay with abundant small to large stones	>215	>14	>2
2	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	>100	>14	0.25
2	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Green brown clay	>100	>14	0.20
2	2002	Layer		Natural	Orange yellow clay overlying blue grey clay with abundant small to large stones	>100	>14	>0.1

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land West of Stonehouse (Area C)	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the mixed development of residential and commercial/industrial units and associated infrastructure on land west of Stonehouse (Area C), Stroud, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	12 September 2017 – 04 March 2019	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Bartlett-Clark Consultancy 2013) Archaeological evaluation (Headland Archaeology 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Stroud, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.12ha	
Site co-ordinates	378973 206543	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Alistair Barber; Noel Boothroyd; Peter Busby; Liam Wilson,	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	The Museum in the Park	Trench Sheet, Photo register
Digital	The Museum in the Park	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Land West of Stonehouse (Area C), Stroud, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 17755		



N

General site boundary
 Area C

0 1km

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673

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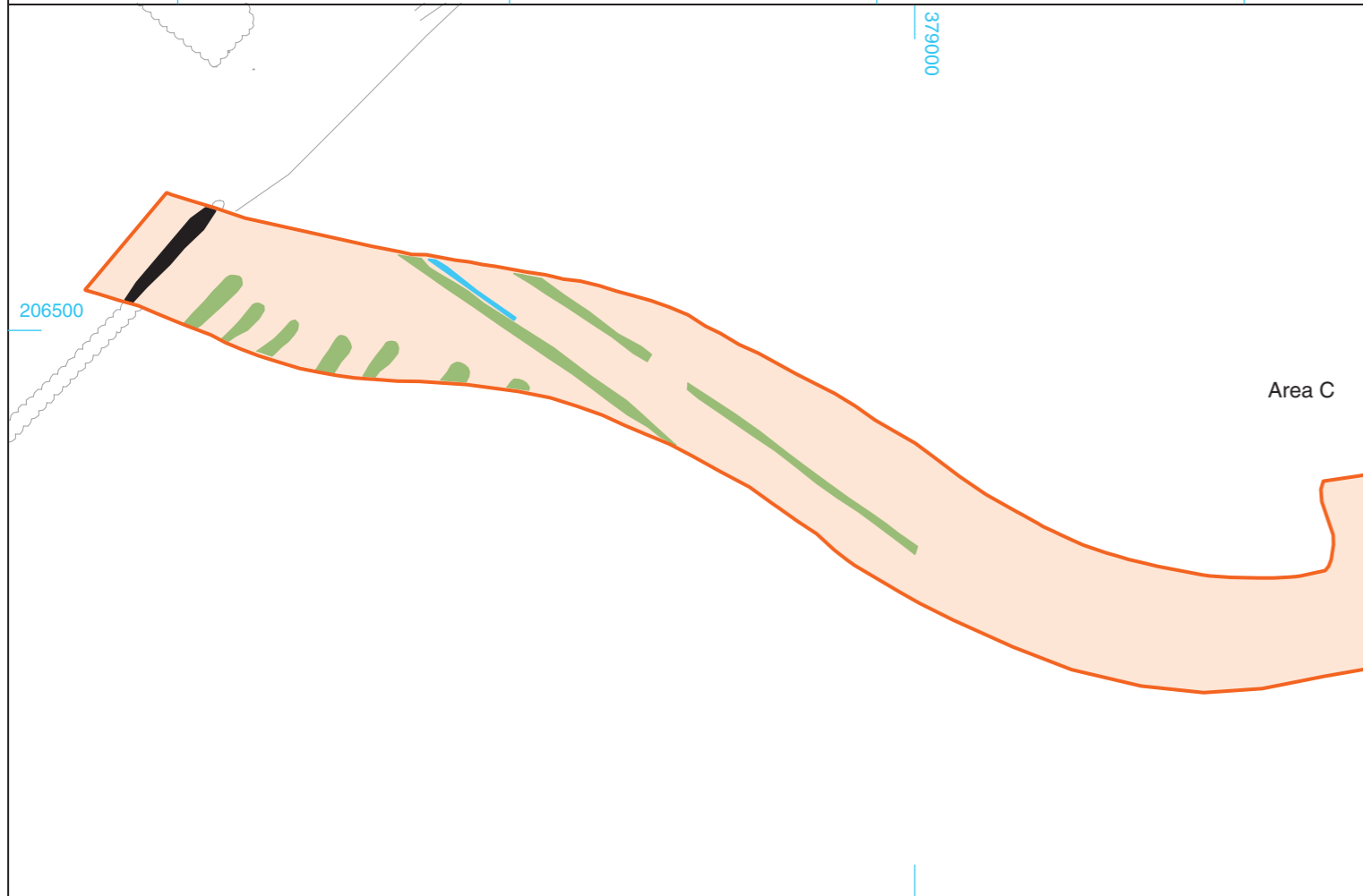
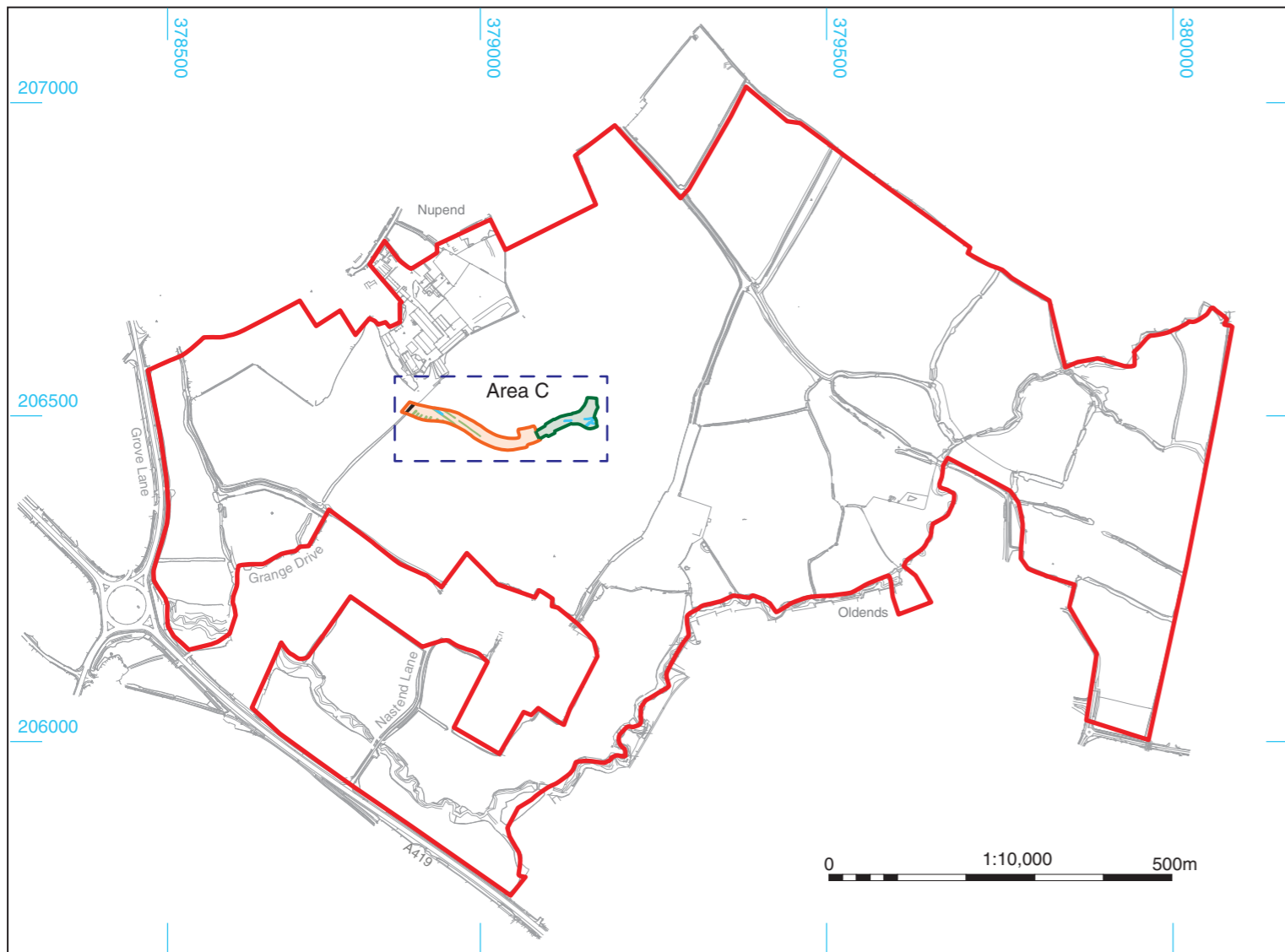
PROJECT TITLE

**Land West of Stonehouse (Area C),
Stroud, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	6384	FIGURE NO.	
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	12/01/2018		
APPROVED BY	RY	SCALE@A4	1:25,000		1



- Site boundary
- Excavation area 2018
- Excavation area 2019
- Post-medieval ditch
- Furrow
- Field drain



0 1:10,000 500m

0 1:1000 50m

Background mapping supplied by the client (CgMs, 2017)


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PROJECT TITLE
**Land West of Stonehouse (Area C),
 Stroud, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE
**The site, showing location of
 groundworks**

DRAWN BY	EE/AO	PROJECT NO.	6384	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	11/04/2019	2
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A3	1:1000 & 1:10,000	



Area C, looking east.



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PROJECT TITLE

Land West of Stonehouse (Area C),
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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CHECKED BY DJB DATE 12/01/2018
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FIGURE NO.

3

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