

# Greystones Farm (shelter shed and yard) Bourton-on-the-Water Gloucestershire

*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

CA Project: 4067  
CA Report: 15309

June 2015



# Greystones Farm (shelter shed and yard) Bourton-on-the-Water Gloucestershire

## Archaeological Evaluation

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A	16/6/2015	Buzz	Cliff Bateman	Internal review		Simon Cox

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY .....	5
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	5
6. DISCUSSION.....	6
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	7
8. REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	9
APPENDIX B: HEIGHTS OF THE PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS .....	10
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM .....	11

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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

Fig. 2 Trench location plan and location of previous archaeological works (1:500)

Fig. 3 Trench 43, plan, section and photographs (1:100 and 1:20)



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Greystones Farm (shelter shed and yard)
<b>Location:</b>	Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 1730 2088
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	2 June 2015
<b>SMC:</b>	Reference: S00050601
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	GSF13

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2015 at the Shelter Shed, Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated.

The evaluation demonstrated that the 18th-century Shelter Shed was constructed on a relic top/plough soil that sealed the natural gravels. No deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period were identified during the groundworks.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) within the Shelter Shed, Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 1730 2088; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to comply with Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC; Reference: S00050601) granted by English Heritage (now Historic England (HE)) for the replacement of the existing floor within, and the existing yard surface adjacent to, the Stone Barn (see Fig. 2). A minor amendment to the SMC to extend the proposed works to include the Shelter Shed was agreed by HE by email on 15 May 2015. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* produced by CA (2015) and approved by Mel Barge (Inspector of Ancient Monuments, HE). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014)*, the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire (GCC 1996)*, the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006)

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is located within the existing Shelter Shed within Greystones Farm, which itself is a working cattle farm that consists of barns and yard surfaces. The site lies at approximately 136m 4D.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic era, overlain by Sherborne Member gravels of the Quaternary Period (BGS 2015). Natural gravels were encountered throughout the excavated trench.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cotswold Archaeology has previously undertaken a range of surveys, including an archaeological desk study, building survey, palaeoenvironmental survey and erosion survey, for GWT's estate at Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (CA 2005).

- 2.2 A series of archaeological evaluations and watching briefs has also been undertaken within the farmyard area, associated with the construction of new barns and drainage (CA 2006, 2007a, 2007b, 2009 and 2010). In general, these works revealed modern deposits directly overlying the natural substrate, suggesting that much of the farmyard has previously been truncated. However, two undated ditches have also been identified, both being sealed by buried sub- and top-soils.
- 2.3 A watching brief undertaken in 2014 during groundworks associated with the construction of the new parlour building revealed a large number of well-preserved features dating from the Iron Age to modern periods. Identified archaeological features included Middle Iron Age storage pits, with two crouched human burials being recovered from the upper-most fills of two of the pits. By the later Iron Age it seems probable that the pits had been abandoned and the area was subject to occupation as evidenced by a ring ditch, suggestive of a roundhouse. Little evidence of Roman or Saxon activity was identified, and the area had reverted to agricultural usage by the medieval period (CA in prep).
- 2.4 The Shelter Shed is believed to be part of the post-medieval farmyard. A preceding Level 3 building survey identified it as a six bay open arcaded structure, with a hipped roof, broadly dating to the mid-18th century (CA 2005). The joinery was noted to be of a high standard, although the materials used were of poorer quality. The two doorways in the northern wall were interpreted as later insertions.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). The evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable HE to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single trench (Trench 43), measuring 1.5m by 1m, located internally within the existing Shelter Shed (see Fig. 2 for location). The trench was located on the western side of a slightly off centre doorway to minimise disturbance to the existing stone floor of the building.
- 4.2 The trench was hand excavated to the top of the natural gravel substrate. The overlying deposits and structures were excavated, planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*. No finds were recovered during the current works and no deposits suitable for environmental sampling encountered.
- 4.3 The site archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Corinium Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, 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 evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and structures expressed as metres below the base of the roof truss above Trench 43 and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) appear in Appendix B.
- 5.2 The natural gravels, 4310, were typically encountered 0.5m below the current floor surface of the Shelter Shed (2.15m below the roof truss). Sealing the natural deposits was a 0.19m thick relic top/plough soil, 4309.
- 5.3 Cutting deposit 4309, and founded upon the natural gravels, was north-west/south-east foundation trench 4313 for the northern wall of the Shelter Shed. The foundation trench clearly had an eastern terminus that did not cross the central doorway. The slight gap between the stone foundations and the construction trench cut it was filled by gravels 4312. The upper surface of the foundation course of wall 4311 was c. 0.05m above the surface of 4309 and there was no indication that it had ever continued east beyond the end of cut 4313.

- 5.4 Levelling deposits of sandy gravel and limestone rubble (4307 and 4308) were founded on the surface of the relic top/plough soil 4309 and sealed the offset foundation course for wall 4311. Irregular limestone paving 4314, which could be traced throughout much of the Shelter Shed, had been laid directly on levelling deposit 4308.
- 5.5 Square or rectangular pit 4306 cut through flooring 4314. The function of this pit is unknown as only 0.25m of it extended into the trench. However it was possible to trace the disturbance in the surface of floor 4314 for at least 1m west of the trench. The pit seems to have been intently backfilled with fills 4303, 4304 and 4305. A pitched limestone surface, 4302, was then laid on top of the fills, presumably to repair the hole in surface 4314. At a later date, concrete surface 4301 was laid over pitched surface 4302.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The earliest deposit excavated was relic top/plough soil 4309 identified immediately sealing natural gravels 4310. The survival of this soil horizon suggests that the footprint of the Shelter Shed has not been subjected to later post-medieval/modern truncation. A relic plough soil has previously been observed sealing the natural gravels, and archaeological features, elsewhere in the farmyard, most notably during the Parlour Building excavations immediately north of the Main Cattle Shed (Fig. 2 and CA *in prep*).
- 6.2 Foundation trench 4313 for the northern wall of the Shelter Shed cut former soil horizon 4309. The preceding building report (CA 2005) interpreted the doorway in the north wall of the Shed as a later addition. However, the evaluation has shown that foundation trench 4313 respects the current door opening, with the western extent of the foundation courses being tidy and well finished. This strongly suggests that this doorway is original to the building.
- 6.3 Deposits 4307 and 4308 overlie the stepped foundations to wall 4311 suggesting that they represent makeup layers associated with the original construction of the Shelter Shed. If this interpretation is accepted, then limestone flagstones 4314 could also be an original, or at least an early, internal floor surface. Pit 4306 and associated pitched limestone surface 4302 represent a later alteration within to the



building. Its location against the north wall of the building, to one side of, and seemingly respecting, the doorway suggests that it may be related to changes associated with the wooden hay racks or other feeding structures located along this wall.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken and the report written by Peter Busby. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 15 May 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2005 *Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Surveys* Typescript Report **04084**

CA 2006 *Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Report No. **06143**

CA 2007a *Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CA Report No. **07126**

CA 2007b *Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Report No. **07055**

CA 2009 *Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Typescript Report **09085**

CA 2010 *Greystones Farm (Replacement of the Old Dairy and Water pipe, Bourton-on-the-Water Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief* CA Typescript Report **10043**

CA 2013 *Land at Greystones Farm (Parlour Building), Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report **13565**

CA 2015 *Greystones Farm (shelter shed and yard), Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA in prep *Greystones Farm (Parlour Building): Archaeological Watching Brief*



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
43	4301	Layer		Concrete floor	Grey coarse concrete, very hard	>0.25	0.85	0.1
43	4302	Layer		Pitched stone floor	Surface of angular pitched limestone cobbles forming a surface along N wall of building	>0.35	0.85	0.18
43	4303	Fill	4306	Upper pit fill	Dark yellow brown silt sand with 50% fine gravel and 10% angular limestone cobbles. Very loose deposit	>1.5	>0.35	0.22
43	4304	Fill	4306	Pit fill	Grey brown silt sand with 50% gravel. Very loose deposit	>1	>0.25	0.25
43	4305	Fill	4306	Pit fill	Light grey silt sand with 50% gravel and 25% angular limestone cobbles	>0.43	>0.2	>0.27
43	4306	Cut		Pit	Square or rectangular in plan (only have E side) with angular corners and vertical sides. Base not seen	1.15	>0.25	>.27
43	4307	Layer		Dump	Light yellow brown silt sand with 25% gravel and 50% angular limestone pebbles/very large boulders	>1.5	>1	0.26
43	4308	Layer		Dump	Light brown silt sand with 50% fine gravel	>1.5	>1	0.19
43	4309	Layer		Relic top/plough soil	Light grey brown sand silt with 25% gravel	>1.45	>1	0.13
43	4310	Layer		Natural	Light yellow/yellow brown fine sandy gravel	>1.5	>1	
43	4311	Structure	4313	Wall	NW/SE wall constructed of roughly squared limestone blocks in horizontal courses, set in light brown white lime mortar. The lowest course extends 0.08m beyond the face of the wall on its S side and 0.04m on the E face. The E face of the wall where visible below cement render is well finished	6.25	0.5	2.25
43	4312	Fill	4313	Foundation trench fill	Light yellow sandy gravel	>0.6	>0.3	0.11
43	4313	Cut		Foundation trench	NW/SE linear with square corners, vertical sides and flat base	>0.6	>0.3	0.11
43	4314	Layer		Floor	Flat, irregular limestone paving stones laid horizontally and directly on Dump 4308	>1.4	>0.8	0.11

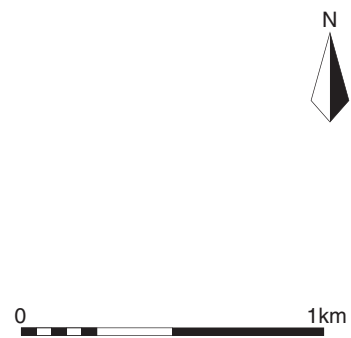
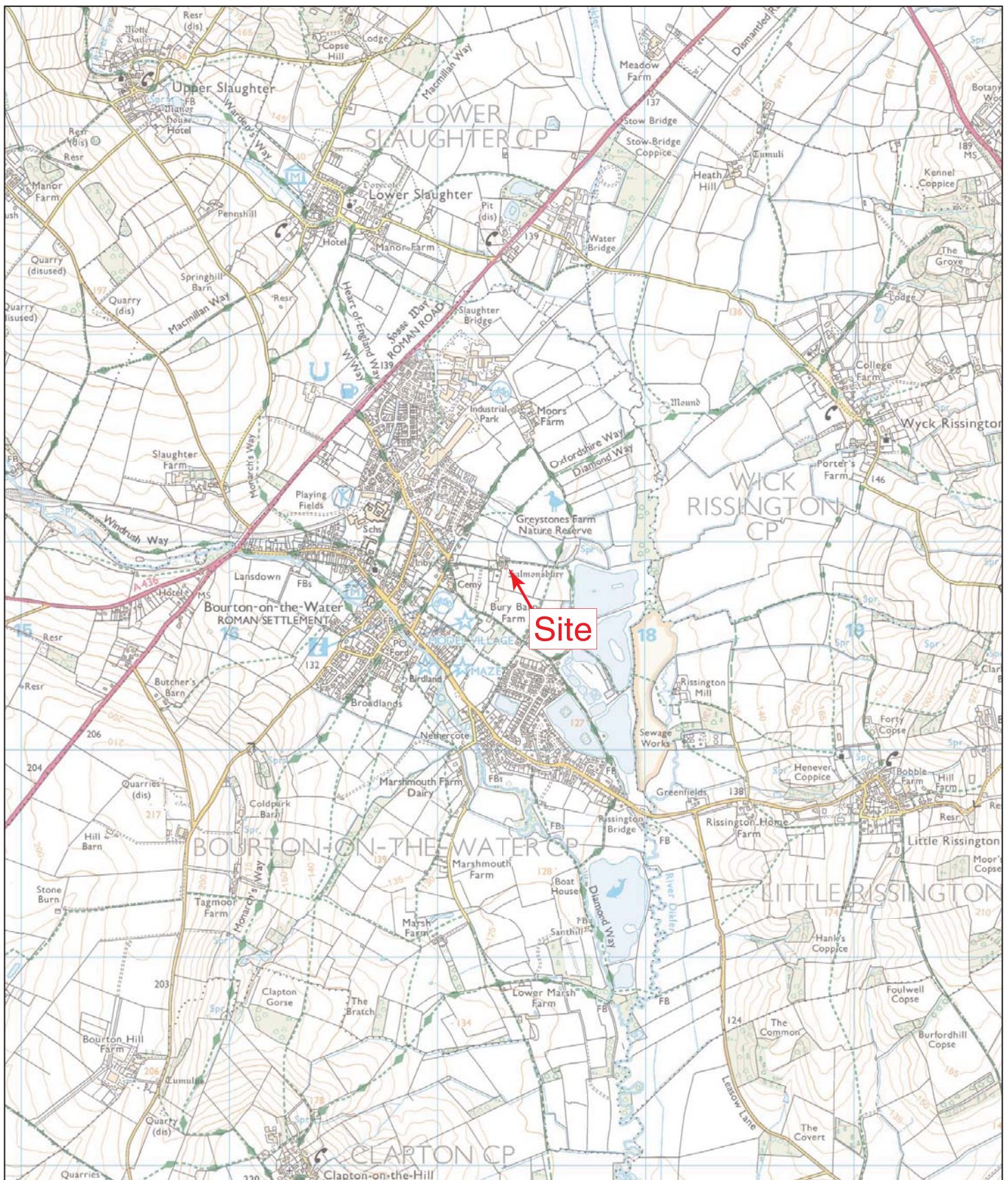
**APPENDIX B: HEIGHTS OF THE PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS**

Levels (taken adjacent to the north wall of the Shelter Shed on the western side of the doorway) are expressed as metres below current ground level, the base of the roof truss above trench 43, and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) calculated using the benchmark located 0.5m north-east of the centre of the doorway with a value of 133.89m AOD.

	Below current ground level	Below base of roof truss	metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD),
Current ground level (internal to west of doorway)	0.00m	1.66m	134.15m
Top of relic top/plough soil 309	0.37m	2.03m	133.78m
Surface of natural 310	0.49m	2.15m	133.66m

## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Greystones Farm (shelter shed and yard)	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2015 at the Shelter Shed, Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation demonstrated that the doorway in its northern wall was likely to have been an original feature of the mid-18th century Shelter Shed and that the building was constructed on a relic top/plough soil overlying natural gravels. No pre post medieval deposits, features or finds were identified during the groundworks</p>	
Project dates	2 June 2015	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Evaluation 1998 RCN-EHNMR- 1161011 Cotswold Archaeological Trust Evaluation 2001 RCN-EHNMR-1399405 Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Section Survey 2004 RCN-EHNMR-1486178 Cotswold Archaeology Evaluation 2006 RCN-EHNMR-1451718 Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Section Watching brief 2007 RCN-EHNMR-14633214 Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Section Watching brief 2007 RCN-EHNMR-1527685 Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Section Survey 2007 RCN-EHNMR-1513511 Stratascan Watching brief 2007 RCN-EHNMR-1527686 Cotswold Archaeology Evaluation 2000 RCN-EHNMR-1530859 Cotswold Archaeology	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire	
Study area		
Site co-ordinates	SP 1730 2088	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		None
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench sheets, drawings
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Greystones Farm (shelter shed and yard), Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>15309</b>		




**Cotswold Archaeology**  
 Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Greystones Farm (shelter shed & yard)  
 Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b> LJH	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 4067	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> JB	<b>DATE</b> 05/06/15	
<b>APPROVED BY</b> CB	<b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:25,000	<b>1</b>

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- archaeological feature
- modern feature
- treethrow
- trench (CA 2015)
- previous trench (CA 2014)
- previous trench (CA 2013)
- previous test pit (CA 2010)
- previous test pit (CA 2009)
- previous test pit (CA 2007)
- previous test pit (CA 2006)
- observed drainage run (CA 2007)
- Dunning 1931-1934



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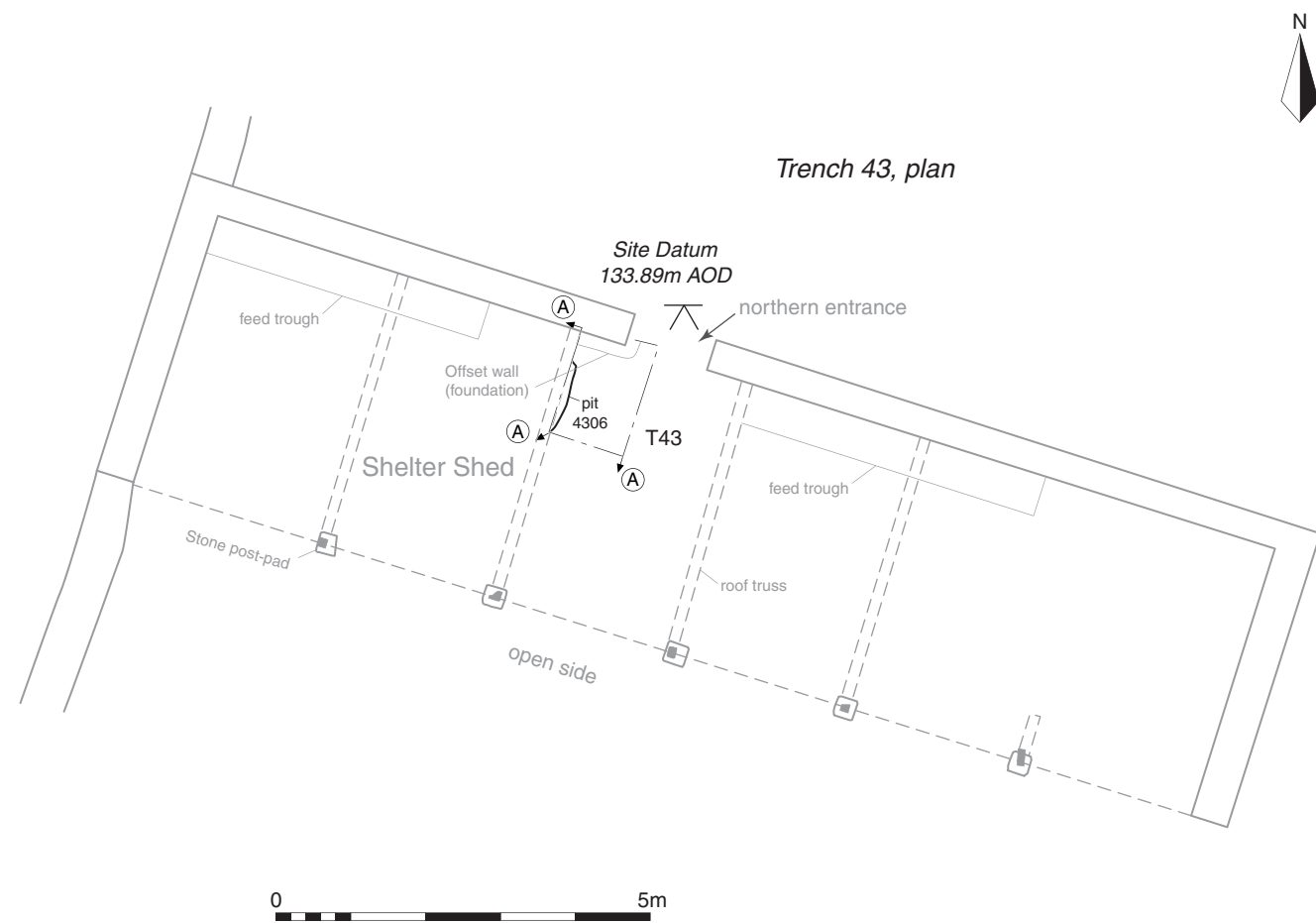
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 Andover 01264 347830  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Greystones Farm (shelter shed & yard)  
 Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire

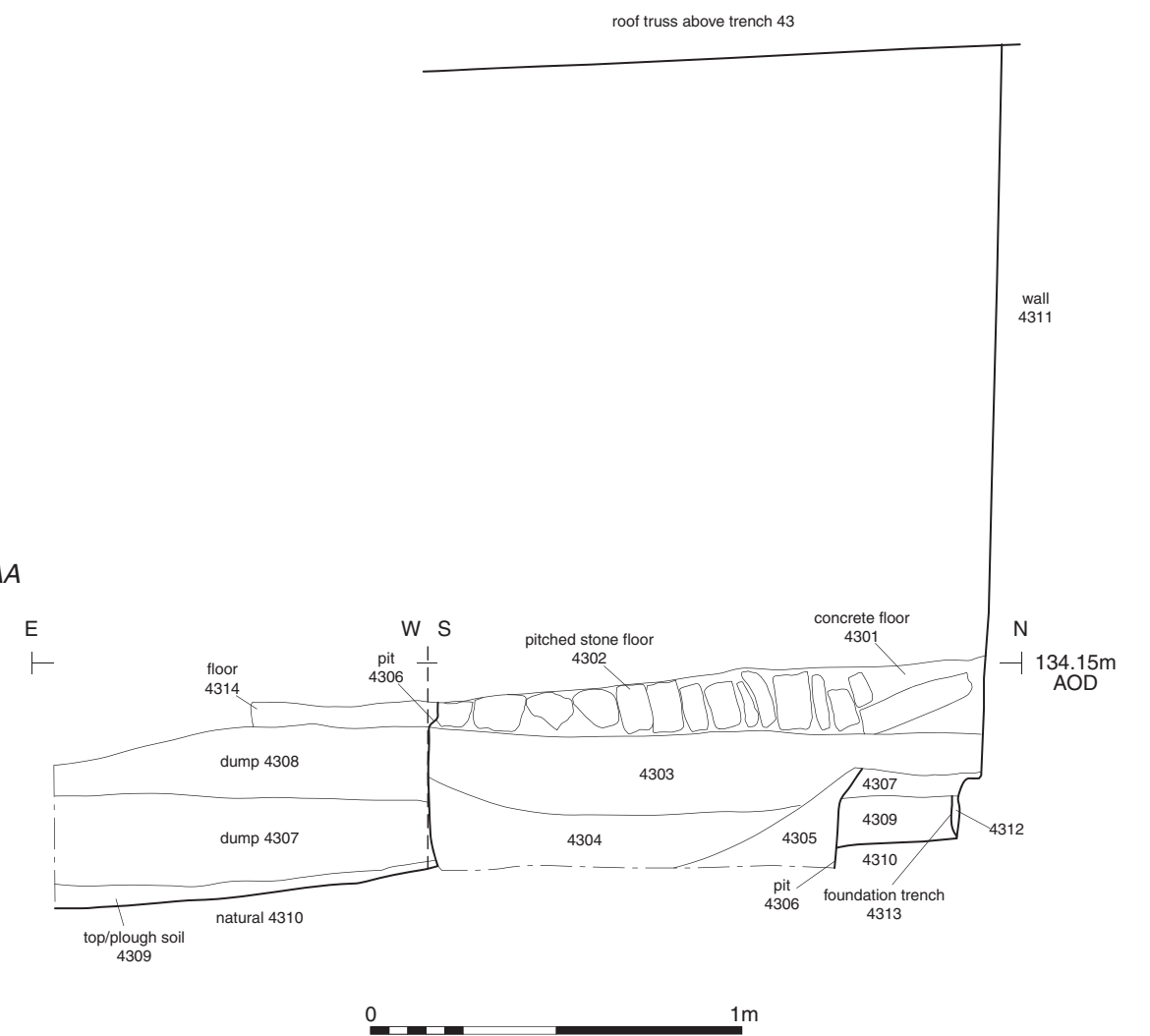
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan and location  
 of previous archaeological works

DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	4067	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	17/06/15	2
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A3	1:500	





**Section AA**



Trench 43, pre-excitation (1m scale)



Trench 43, looking north-west (1m scale)

**Cotswold Archaeology**

Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE  
**Greystones Farm (shelter shed and yard)**  
 Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 43: plan, section and photographs**

DRAWN BY L J H PROJECT NO. 4067 FIGURE NO.  
 CHECKED BY J B DATE 03/07/15 RP  
 APPROVED BY C B SCALE @A3 1:100 & 1:20 **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 8  
Basepoint Business Centre  
Yeoford Way  
Marsh Barton Trading Estate  
Exeter  
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

### **Milton Keynes Office**

41 Burners Lane South  
Kiln Farm  
Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire  
MK1 3HA

t: 01908 564660