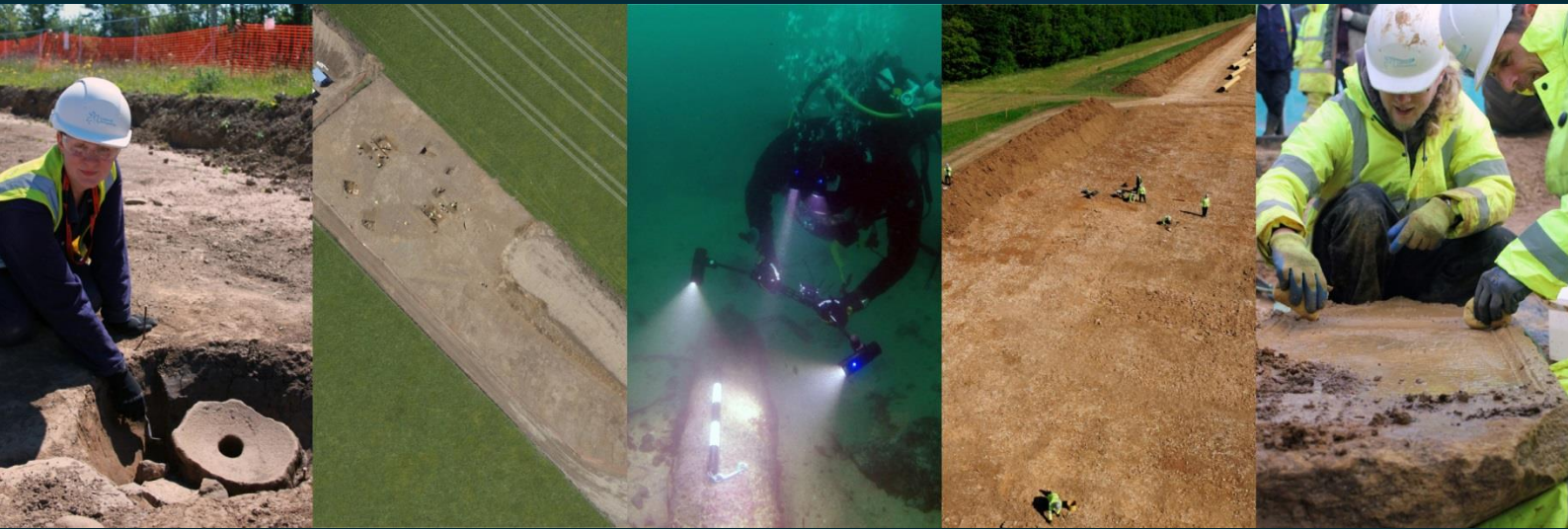


Land at Cedar House
38 Cricklade Road
Highworth
Wiltshire

Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording



for
Mathewson Walters Architects

on behalf of
Mr and Mrs Chapman

CA Project: CR0006
CA Report: CR0006_1

July 2020



Land at Cedar House 38 Cricklade Road Highworth Wiltshire

Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Cedar House, 38 Cricklade Road, Highworth
Location:	Highworth, Wiltshire
NGR:	419725 192349
Type:	Programme of archaeological monitoring and recording
Date:	9 January to 11 February 2020
Planning Reference:	Swindon Borough Council planning ref: S/18/0761/TB
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Swindon Museum & Art Gallery
Accession Number:	SWIMG 200.2
Site Code:	CED20

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of a replacement house and garage at Cedar House, 38 Cricklade Road, Highworth, Wiltshire.

Evidence of Roman activity, comprising two ditches and a pit containing pottery of broad Roman date, was revealed within the foundation trenches excavated for the replacement house. The function of these features remains unclear; however it is possible that they relate to known Roman settlement activity previously identified in the vicinity of the current site, although they are considered most likely to relate to agricultural activity given the limited quantities of artefactual material recovered from their respective fills.

A number of irregular pits, the majority of which contained artefactual material of late post-medieval/modern date, were identified within the foundation trenches excavated for both the replacement dwelling and garage and they may relate to a former workhouse built nearby during the late 18th-century or to the construction of the existing dwelling during the 1960s.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2020 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at the request of Mathewson Walters Architects on behalf of Mr and Mrs Chapman, on land at Cedar House, 38 Cricklade Road, Highworth, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 419725 192349; Fig. 1). The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the erection of a replacement house and garage (Swindon Borough Council (SBC); planning ref: S/18/0761/TB, condition 9).
- 1.2 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* produced by CA (2019) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 0.2ha in extent and comprises Cedar House itself, along with its associated grounds. The site is bounded to the east by Westhill House, to the south by the B4019 (Cricklade Road) and to the west and north by residential properties and their associated gardens. The site lies at approximately 132m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Highworth Limestone Member of the Jurassic Period (BGS 2020). No superficial deposits are recorded (ibid.). The natural substrate, comprising compact yellow-orange sand with occasional patches of gravel, was revealed within all foundation trenches excavated in Areas 1 and 2.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies within an area of known Prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity. The following is a brief summary of publically available information pertinent to the site.



Prehistoric

- 2.2 Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the vicinity of the site is represented by finds of flint tools and pottery at Hampton Hill c. 450m to the west of the site (CA 2017). A number of crouched burials, of potential Bronze Age date, are recorded by the Wiltshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER) c. 200m to the south of the site (HER MWI16817). Storage pits, postholes and cremations of Iron Age date are also recorded by the HER at Hampton Hill (WCHER refs: MWI16747 & MWI16745).

Roman

- 2.2 Probable Roman inhumation burials are recorded by the HER c. 65m to the north-west (HER MWI73330), c. 140m to the south-east (HER MWI16763) and c. 250m to the south-west (HER MWI16770) of the current site respectively. A Roman pyre burial and a section of wall have also been recorded at 39 Cricklade Road, c. 85m to the south-west of the site (HER EW17393). Roman buildings are recorded c. 115m to the south-east of the site (HER MWI16769) and at Highworth Junior Football Club, c. 250m to the south of the site (Rowe and Bateman 2004).

Early medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066)

- 2.3 There is some Evidence of Early medieval activity in the vicinity of Highworth. The remains of a Sunken Featured Building (SFB) have been identified c. 770m to the east of the current site at Priory Green (HER MWI20335). A biconical urn (HER ref: MWI16792) and grass tempered pottery of Early medieval date are also recorded by the HER c. 270m to the west and c. 600m to the east of the site respectively (HER ref: MWI20336).

Medieval (AD 1066 -1539)

- 2.4 Highworth is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 and medieval settlement in Highworth is currently thought to have been focused around the church of St Michael, c. 400m to the north-east of the current site (CA 2017). Evidence of further dispersed medieval activity in the vicinity of the current site, comprising probable extraction pits and ditches, is recorded by the HER c. 115m to the north-east (HER ref: EW16181) and c. 500m to the north-east of the site respectively (HER MWI64447 and MWI64448).

Post-medieval (AD 1540 -1800 – Modern (1810 - Present)

- 2.5 The First Edition 1876-1877 Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows the current site forming part of the gardens of Westhill House (formerly a workhouse, constructed in

c. 1790 and subsequently utilised as a vicarage and private residence). The site remained as part of the grounds of this property until the 1960s when 'Cedar House' itself was constructed as part of the extensive expansion of residential development of Highworth during this period.

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 WSI (CA 2019). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of foundation trenches for the new dwelling (Area 1) and garage (Area 2; see Fig. 2 for location and extent).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery under accession number SWIMG 200.2, along with the site archive. 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 2-4)

Area 1

- 5.1 Area 1 comprised the excavation of foundation trenches for the replacement house. The natural sands and gravels, 101, were typically revealed at a depth of 0.66m below present ground level (bpgl) within the foundation excavations.
- 5.2 Ditch 107/120/123 was aligned north-west/south-east and measured a maximum of 3.5m in width and 0.67m in depth. It had an irregular profile and contained two fills, 104/118/121 and 105/119/122. Six sherds of pottery, of broad Roman date, were recovered from the latest fill of this feature, 104/118/121. Fill 104/118/121 was cut by north-east/south-west aligned ditch 109/134 and sub-circular pit 148.
- 5.3 Ditch 109/134 measured a maximum of 3.31m in width and 1.07m in depth. It had an irregular 'U'-shaped profile and contained a single fill, 108/133, from which a single sherd of pottery of 2nd to 4th-century AD date were recovered. Sub-circular pit 148 had an irregular profile and measured a maximum of 2.1m in width and 1.95m in depth. It contained a single undated fill, 147.
- 5.4 Irregular pits 117 and 136 were partially exposed along the north-western edge of the excavated Area 1 foundation trenches. Pit 136 measured more than 2.54m in width and 1m in depth, had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and contained a single undated fill, 135. Pit 117 measured more than 3.92m in width and 0.8m in depth, had a steeply sloping south-western side and a flat base and contained three fills, 114, 115 and 116. Three sherds of pottery of 2nd to 4th-century AD date were recovered from the secondary fill, 116, of this feature.
- 5.5 Partially exposed sub-oval pits 139, 141 and 143 all had near-vertical sides and irregular bases and were of similar size, ranging from 1.75m-1.9m in width and 1.7m-2.1m in depth. Two sherds of mid to late 18th-century pottery and a single sherd of pottery of broad Roman date were recovered from the single fill of pit 139, 138. A single sherd of pottery of mid to late 18th-century pottery was recovered from the single fill of pit 141, 130. A single sherd of pottery of mid 16th to 18th-century date was recovered from the single fill of pit 143, 142.
- 5.6 All archaeological features identified in Area 1, with the exception of pit 136, were sealed by topsoil which measured up to 0.66m in thickness. The fill of pit 136, 135,

was sealed by a localised make-up/levelling deposit, 137, which contained modern metal, plastic and brick inclusions and measured up to 0.32m in thickness. Make-up/levelling deposit 137 was in turn sealed by topsoil.

Area 2

- 5.7 Area 2 comprised the excavation of foundation trenches for the new garage. The natural sands and gravels, 201, were typically revealed at a depth of 0.68m below present ground level (bpgl) within the foundation excavations. The natural substrate was cut by two partially exposed pits, 203 and 205, both of which contained modern artefactual material, including metal, glass and plastic. No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were revealed during the excavation of the foundation trenches in Area 2.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from nine deposits (ditch and pit fills). The recovered material dates to the Roman and post-medieval/modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric and form/rim morphology where possible. Pottery fabric codes (in parenthesis in the text) have been devised for the purpose of this report. The type series from the nearby Roman town at Wanborough, Wiltshire was not used as the greyware fabrics are not comparable. (Seager Smith 2001). National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B, where applicable (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Pottery: Roman

- 6.2 A total of 11 sherds of pottery (272g) of Roman date was recovered. Most common are fine greywares, probably of relatively local manufacture, and of broad Romano-British date (GW1, GW2, GW3). A rimsherd in fabric GW2, from fill 138 of pit 139, is from a necked jar and a bodysherd in fabric GW1 features burnished decoration in the form of vertical stripes. Fill 116 of pit 117 produced an unfeatured bodysherd of Savernake Grog-tempered ware (SGT), which dates to the mid 1st to 2nd centuries. Also present are two sherds in a coarse, sandy greyware fabric with black, burnished external surfaces (IMBB). This appears to be in imitation of Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware and similar dating (2nd to 4th centuries) can be

applied. The Roman pottery is mostly in a relatively good condition, although the greyware sherds from fill 121 of ditch 123 have suffered some surface loss.

Post-medieval/modern

- 6.3 Pottery from this date range totals five sherds (362g). Represented fabrics are glazed earthenware (GLE) which dates to the mid 16th to 18th centuries, creamware (CRM), of mid to late 18th century date and porcelain (POR, mid 18th to 19th centuries). The creamware sherd recovered from fill 138 of pit 139 is from the base of a jug or tankard and features hand-painted decoration.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Evidence of Roman activity, comprising two ditches and a pit containing pottery of broad Roman date, was revealed within the foundation trenches excavated in Area 1. A number of substantial pits, the majority of which contained post-medieval/modern artefactual material, were revealed within the foundation trenches excavated in Areas 1 and 2. Despite the close proximity of known Roman burials to the current site (see *Archaeological Background* above); no evidence of further funerary activity was revealed by the current programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.
- 8.2 Ditches 107/120/123 and 109/134 and pit 117 contained small quantities of pottery of Roman date. The function of these features remains unclear due to the limited view afforded by the groundworks undertaken; however Roman settlement activity has previously been identified in close proximity (see *Archaeological Background* above) and it is possible that this activity continued into the current site, albeit in a less intense form. However, the limited quantity of the pottery recovered from these features, suggests that they lie at an appreciable distance from any focus of settlement and are therefore perhaps more likely to be associated with agricultural activity.
- 8.3 Pits 125/139, 141 and 143, identified in Area 1, contained pottery of broad late post-medieval/modern date. Two morphologically similar pits, 117 and 148, were also identified in this part of the site and, although artefactually undated, are considered to be broadly contemporary due to similarities in their form and fill characteristics. These features appear to be broadly contemporary with the construction and

occupation of Westhill House, located immediately to the east of the current site (formally a work house constructed in c.1790 and later utilised as a private dwelling). The original function of these pits remains unclear; however it remains possible that they relate to the disposal of domestic waste.

- 8.4 Pits 203 and 205, identified in Area 2, contained exclusively modern material and may therefore relate to the construction of Cedar House itself.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Hazel O' Neill. The report was written by Anthony Beechey and Hazel O'Neill. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The archive has been compiled by Anthony Beechey and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Grey brown sandy silt			0.66	
1	101	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange sand with occasional patches of gravel			>0.1	
1	102	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	103	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	104	Fill	107	Fill	1 st fill of ditch 107. Yellow brown sand silt	>1	1.93	0.52	
1	105	Fill	107	Fill	2 nd fill of ditch 107. Mid brown sand silt with occasional charcoal flecks	>1	2.1	0.57	
1	106	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	107	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch, irregular profile.	>1	2.10	0.6	
1	108	Fill	109	Fill	Single fill of ditch 109. Dark orange brown silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	>1	3.31	1.07	C2-C4
1	109	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned, irregular 'U'-shaped profile. Same as ditch 134.	>1	3.31	1.07	
1	110	Void	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	111	Void	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	112	Void	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	113	Void	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	114	Fill	117	Pit Fill	3 rd fill of pit 117. Mid-grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks		0.16	0.22	
1	115	Fill	117	Pit Fill	2 nd fill of pit 117. Mid brown sand and gravel		1.88	0.44	
1	116	Fill	117	Pit Fill	1 st fill of pit 117. Mid grey brown sandy silt		3.92	0.8	C2-C4
1	117	Cut		Pit	Circular, steep sided, flat base		3.92	0.80	
1	118	Fill	120	Fill	2 nd fill of ditch 120. Yellow brown sandy silt	>1	2.7	0.49	RB
1	119	Fill	120	Fill	1 st fill of ditch 120. Mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks	>1	2.48	0.67	
1	120	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned, irregular profile	>1	3.5	0.67	
1	121	Fill	123	Ditch Fill	2 nd fill of ditch 123. Yellow brown sandy silt.	>1	3.1	0.3	RB
1	122	Fill	123	Ditch Fill	1 st fill of ditch 123. Mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks	>1	2.98	0.42	
1	123	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned, irregular profile.	>1	3.10	0.56	
1	124	Fill	125	Pit Fill	Mixed grey silty gravel & brown sandy silt. With occasional charcoal, coal and animal bone inclusions.		0.76	>0.3	MC18-C19
1	125	Cut		Pit	Sub rectangular, rounded corners, Vertical sided, NW/SE aligned. 'Same as' pit 139.		0.76	>0.3	
1	126	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	127	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	128	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	129	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	130	Fill	141	Fill	Mixed grey silty gravel & brown sandy silt. With occasional charcoal, coal and animal bone inclusions.		1.85	>1.65	MC18-LC18
1	131	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	132	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	133	Fill	134	Ditch Fill	Single fill of ditch 134. Dark orange brown silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	>1	1.85	0.85	
1	134	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned, irregular 'U'-shaped profile. Same as ditch 109.	>1	1.85	0.85	
1	135	Fill	136	Pit Fill	Dark grey silt with frequent limestone fragments		2.54	1	
1	136	Cut		Pit	Circular, steep sides and flat base		2.54	1	
1	137	Layer		Make-up/levelling deposit	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional modern metal, plastic and red brick inclusions.	>1	>2	0.36	

1	138	Fill	139	Fill	Single fill of pit 139. Mixed grey silty gravel & brown sandy silt. With occasional charcoal, coal and animal bone inclusions.		1.9	>2.1	MC18-LC18
1	139	Cut		Pit	Sub rectangular, rounded corners, near vertical sided, NW/SE aligned. 'Same as' pit 125.		1.9	>2.1	
1	140	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	141	Cut		Pit	Sub-rectangular, rounded corners, near vertical sided, NW/SE aligned.		1.85	>1.65	
1	142	Fill	143	Pit Fill	Single fill of pit 143. Dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal, coal and brick fragments		1.9	>1.7	MC16-C18
1	143	Cut		Pit	Sub rectangular, rounded corners, vertical sides, NW/SE aligned.		1.9	>1.7	
1	144	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	145	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	146	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	147	Fill	148	Fill	Single fill of 148. Mid black brown clay silt with frequent CMB and charcoal.		2.10	1.95	
1	148	Cut		Pit	Large, sub-circular pit, irregular profile.		2.10	1.95	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Grey brown sandy silt			0.32	
2	201	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange sand with occasional patches of gravel			>0.3	
2	202	Fill	203	Fill	Single fill of pit 203. Dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal, metal, coal and red-brick fragments		>2.5	>0.9	
2	203	Cut		Pit	Large irregular pit. Partially exposed, irregular profile.		>2.5	>0.9	
2	204	Fill	205	Fill	Single fill of pit 205. Dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal, metal, coal and red-brick fragments		>3.7	1	
2	205	Cut		Pit	Large irregular pit. Partially exposed, irregular profile.		>3.7	1	

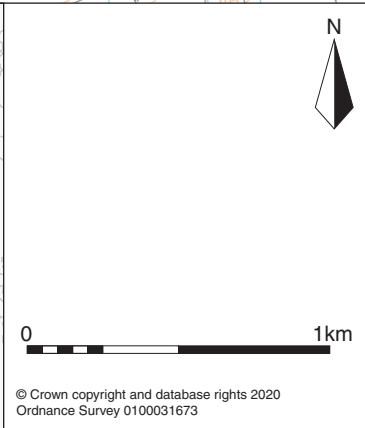
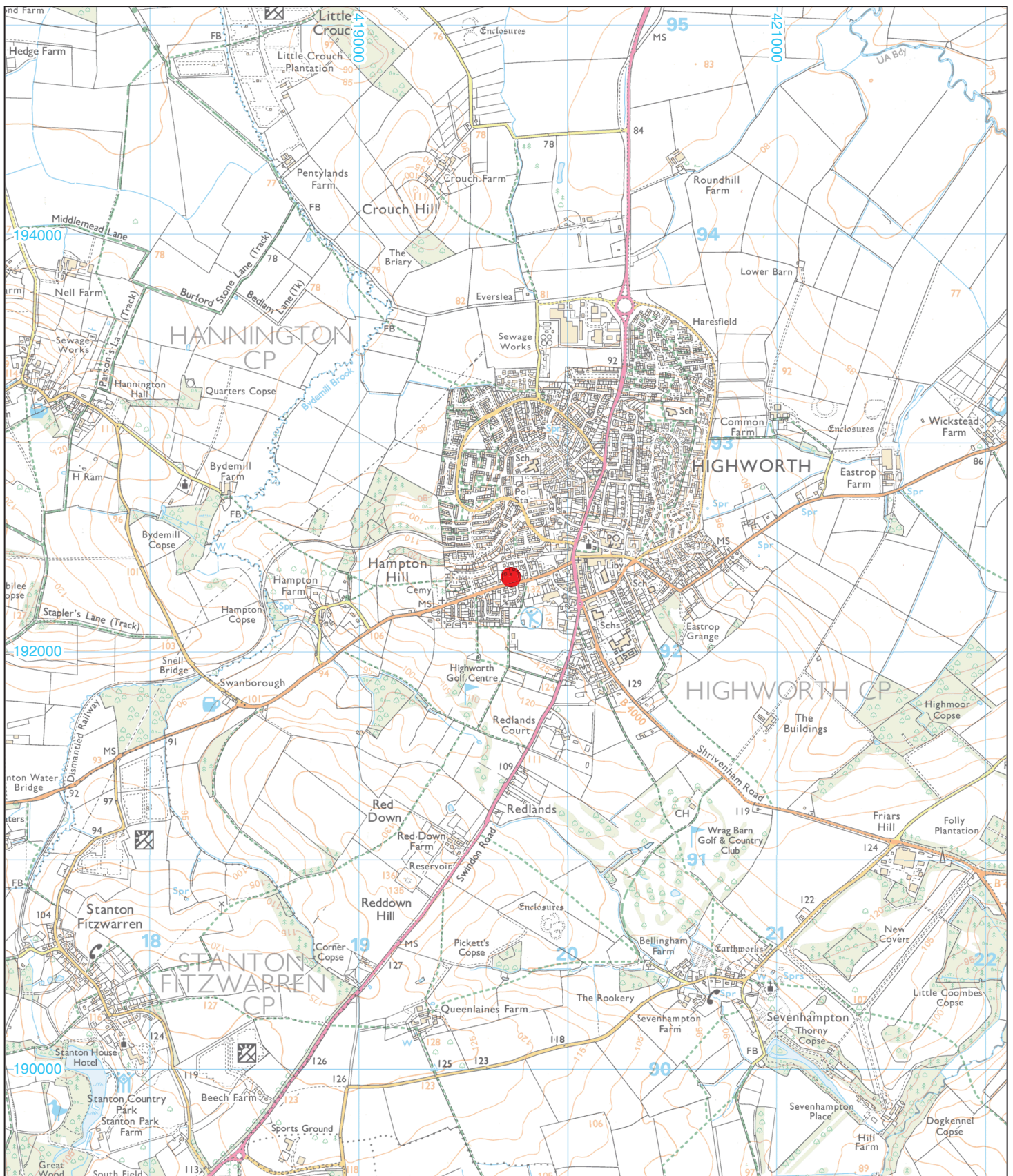
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS


Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
108	Roman pottery	Imitation Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	IMBB	1	10	C2-C4
116	Roman pottery	Imitation Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	IMBB	1	5	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	Savernake Grog-tempered ware	SGT/ SAV GT	1	7	
	Roman pottery	Fine sandy greyware	GW1	1	16	
118	Roman pottery	Fine micaceous greyware	GW3	2	83	RB
121	Roman pottery	Fine sandy greyware	GW1	4	109	RB
124	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Porcelain	POR	1	2	MC18-C19
130	Post-medieval pottery	Creamware	CRM	1	3	MC18-LC18
138	Roman pottery	Fine greyware	GW2	1	42	MC18-LC18
	Post-medieval pottery	Creamware	CRM	1	10	
	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GLE	1	5	
142	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GLE	1	342	MC16-C18

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Cedar House, 38 Cricklade Road, Highworth, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of a replacement house and garage at Cedar House, 38 Cricklade Road, Highworth, Wiltshire.</p> <p>Evidence of Roman activity, comprising two ditches and a pit containing pottery of broad Roman date, was revealed within the foundation trenches excavated for the replacement house. The function of these features remains unclear; however it is possible that they relate to known Roman settlement activity previously identified in the vicinity of the current site, although they are considered most likely to relate to agricultural activity given the limited quantities of artefactual material recovered from their respective fills.</p> <p>A number of irregular pits, the majority of which contained artefactual material of late post-medieval/modern date, were identified within the foundation trenches excavated for both the replacement dwelling and garage and they may relate to a former warehouse built nearby during the late 18th-century or to the construction of the existing dwelling during the 1960s.</p>	
Project dates	9 January to 11 February 2020	
Project type	Programme of archaeological investigation and recording	
Previous work	N/A	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Cedar House, 38 Cricklade Road, Highworth, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	c.0.2ha	
Site co-ordinates	419725 192349	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Hazel O' Neill	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content:
Physical	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery/SWIMG 200.2	Pottery, animal bone
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery/SWIMG 200.2	Trench recording forms, photographic registers, context sheets
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery/SWIMG 200.2	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020 <i>Land at Cedar House, 38 Cricklade Road, Highworth, Wiltshire: Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i> . CA typescript report CR0006_1		




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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Cedar House, 38 Cricklade Road,
 Highworth, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR0006	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/02/2020	
APPROVED BY	HO'N	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- Site outline
- Excavation limit
- Archaeological feature (excavated / unexcavated)
- Modern feature
- A Section location

0 1:150 5m

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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Cedar House, 38 Cricklade Road,
 Highworth, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Areas of observed groundworks,
 showing identified archaeological
 features

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR0006	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/02/2020	2
APPROVED BY	HO'N	SCALE@A3	1:150	



Area 1: excavated foundation trenches, looking south-east (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

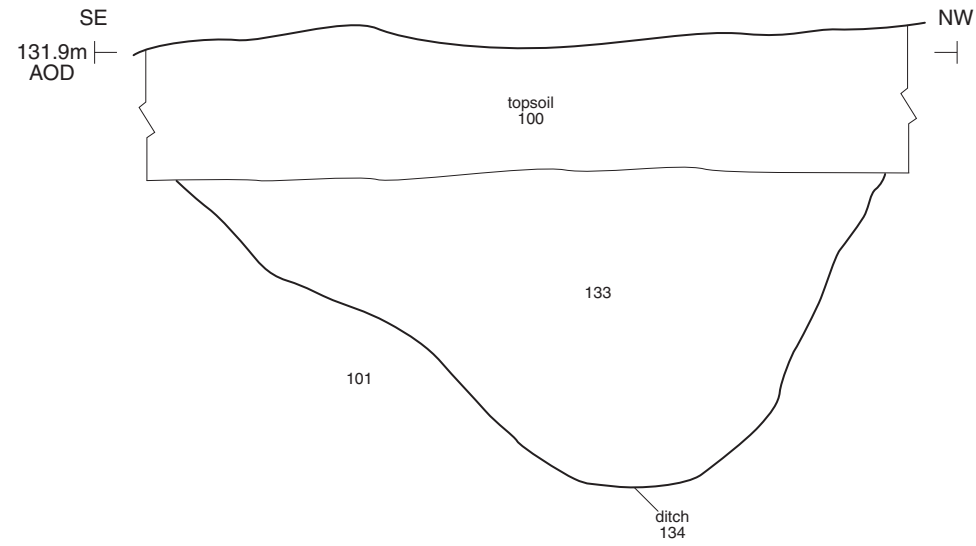
Land at Cedar House, 38 Cricklade Road,
 Highworth, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

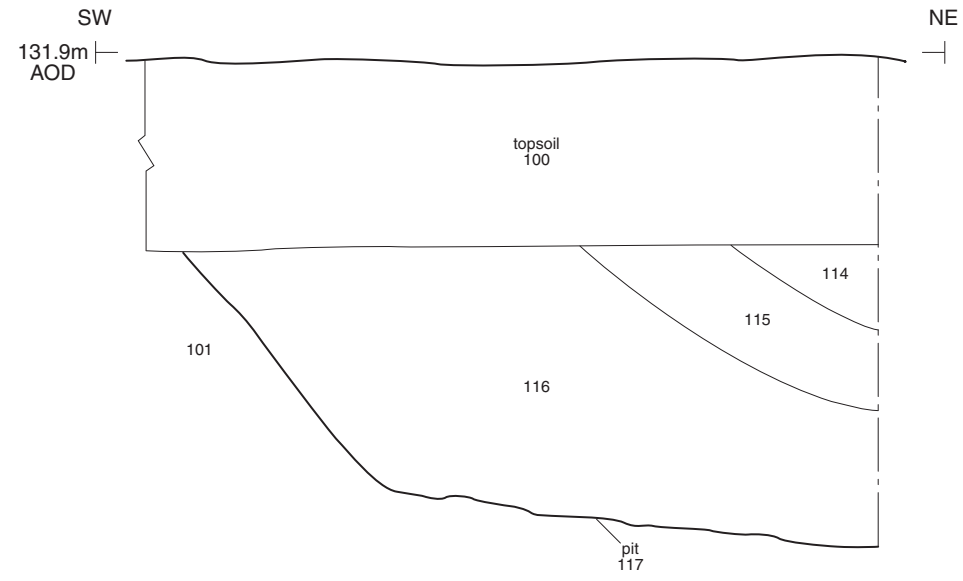
Area 1: photograph

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/02/2020	
APPROVED BY	HO'N	SCALE@A4	1:150	3

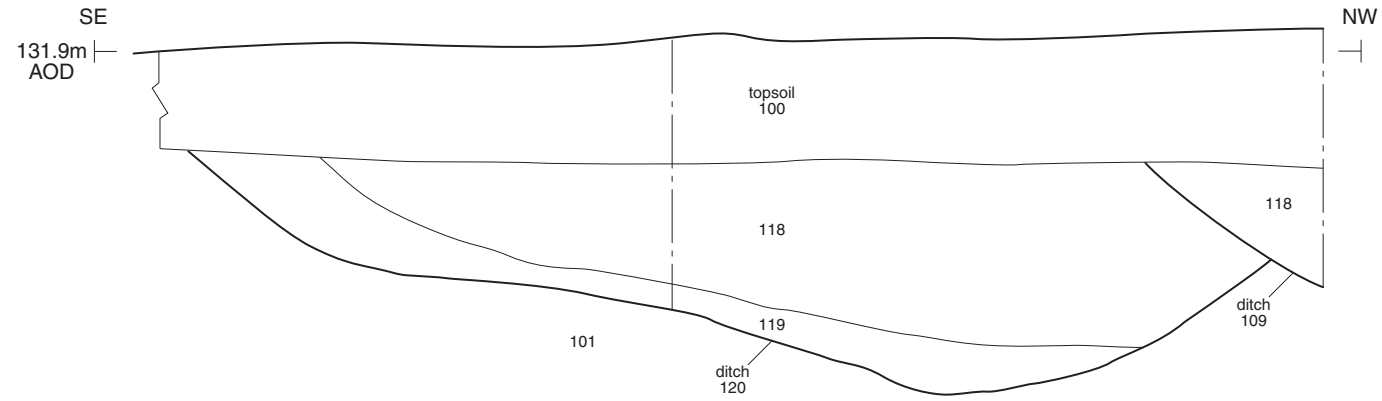
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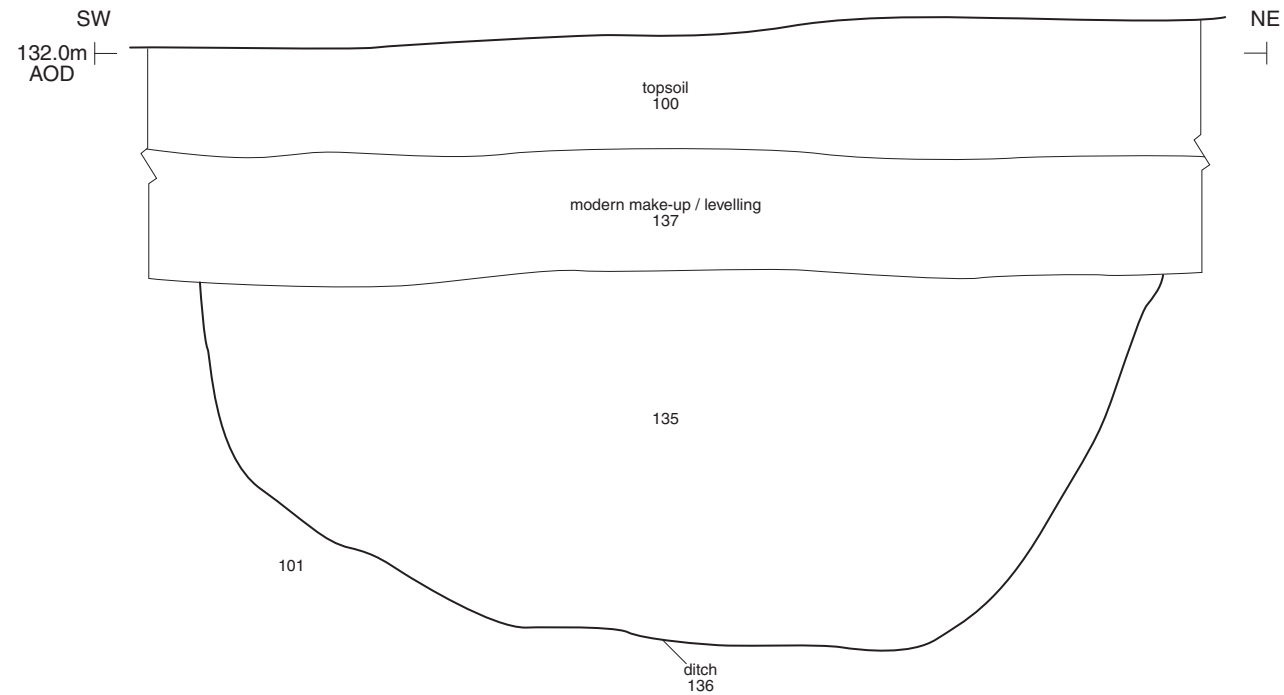
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Section CC



Section DD



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Cedar House, 38 Cricklade Road,
 Highworth, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Area1: sections

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APPROVED BY	HO'N	SCALE@A3	1:20	

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