

**MOSSWAY
OLD FORGE LANE
STOW-ON-THE-WOLD
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

DR AND MRS DEAN

CA PROJECT: 2693
CA REPORT: 08169


AUGUST 2008



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signed	
date	26 August 2008
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Mossway
Location: Old Forge Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire
NGR: SP 1928 2580
Type: Evaluation
Date: 15 August 2008
Planning Reference: 08/01537/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code: MOS 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2008 at the request of Dr and Mrs Dean at Mossway, Old Forge Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated.

Two quarry pits were revealed in the trench. Both contained two fills of quarry waste consisting of limestone within a clay silt matrix. The upper fill of the northern quarry pit contained a single sherd of imported German stoneware of 16th/17th century date.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Dr and Mrs Dean at Mossway, Old Forge Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 1928 2580; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application (ref: 08/01537/FUL) for the redevelopment of the site where the current residential property 'Mossway' will be demolished and a new, larger, 'ecohome' will be constructed.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

1.3 The site is 0.067ha in area and is currently occupied by a small residential property 'Mossway' and its gardens. The south of the property is bounded by Old Forge Lane and the north by the backgardens of a row of residential properties which face north. To the east of the property is a residential property which faces Well Lane and to the west of the property lies a further row of residential properties and gardens (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 227m AOD.

1.4 The underlying Solid geology of the area is mapped as Chipping Norton Limestone of the Jurassic era (BGS 1981). This geology was encountered during the evaluation.

Archaeological background

1.5 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location on the edge of Stow-in-the-Wold's medieval settlement area. The earliest known occupation of Stow-in-the-Wold was an Iron Age hillfort, 'Maethelgeres Byrig' (Leech 1981). Ditches associated with the camp have been identified on several occasions and one yielded radiocarbon dates centred on the Middle Bronze age (Parry 1999). In 1086 the town was referred to as 'Stow St. Edward' or 'Edwardstow' perhaps named after

Edward the Martyr. In 1107 a market was granted to the town and it appears that there were attempts by Evesham Abbey to take advantage of the prosperity the town could accrue in its location at a major road junction of the Fosse Way and roads to Worcester, Banbury, Oxford, Cirencester and Gloucester (Leech 1981). From the 14th to the 19th century the most important industries of the town were cloth and leather, with a thriving shoemaking industry. Quarrying became important from the 17th to the 19th century and archaeological evaluation trenches excavated by CA at White Hart Lane (CA 2005a) to the north of the site revealed post-medieval or later quarry waste. Further evidence of limestone quarrying dated to the 18th or 19th centuries was found during excavations by CA at the rear of Well View, Well Lane (CA 2005b). Evidence from quarrying found in the region of White Hart Lane implies that it was not a long term venture and it is not clear whether it was of an informal nature, to supply building materials to the growing town or whether it represents a sample of the commercial quarrying known to have occurred in Stow-in-the-Wold in the period (CA 2005a, Leech 1981).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Cotswold District Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of one trench measuring 10m by 1.5m in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2) with the approval of Mr Charles Parry.
- 1.8 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other*

Samples from Archaeological Sites (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

- 1.10 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 Corinium Museum along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix C.

- 2.2 Excavation of the trench revealed two sub-circular quarry pits approximately 5m wide; 1002 to the north-west and 1007 to the south-east. Neither pit was excavated to its base. The quarry pits both contained two fills which were very similar in nature. The lower fills 1004 and 1009 respectively, consisted of orange brown limestone fragments in a light, mid brown clay silt matrix. The upper fills, 1001 and 1008 respectively, consisted of limestone fragments smaller than those found in the lower fills, within a dark brown clay silt matrix. The upper fill 1008 of quarry pit 1007 was cut by a modern pit 1005. These features were sealed by a layer of turf and topsoil.

The Finds Evidence

- 2.6 One sherd of pottery (63g), three fragments of animal bone (193g) and an oyster shell (15g) were recovered from quarry pit fills 1001 and 1004 (Appendix B).
- 2.7 The pottery from deposit 1001 consists of a sherd from a 'Bartmann' type jug in Frechen salt-glazed stoneware, imported from the Rhineland. It exhibits part of an oval medallion bearing the arms of Amsterdam and dates to between the mid 16th and later 17th centuries.
- 2.8 Animal bone was recovered from both quarry pit fills (Appendix B). Identifiable bones included examples attributable to pig, sheep and a 'sheep-sized' animal. The

pig humerus showed signs of dog gnawing and butchery. The material is consistent with domestic waste.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Excavation of the trench revealed two quarry pits of approximately equal size. The material used to backfill the pits was similar in both cases, suggesting localised removal of the natural substrate followed by backfilling with unsuitable stone and general waste. Context 1001, the upper fill of quarry pit 1002 contained a sherd of imported German stoneware which has been dated to the mid 16th to later 17th century. This sherd is earlier in date than artefacts found at excavations on sites at Well View, Well Lane (CA 2005b) and White Hart Lane in Stow-on-the-Wold (CA 2005a). Here finds dated the quarrying to the 18th to 19th century. Although the two quarry pits at Mossway have been dated on the basis of a single sherd of pottery, which may not be contemporary with the original excavation of the features, the evidence does support the interpretation of the quarrying in this part of the town being of a localised and short-lived nature.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber, assisted by Philippa Mitcheson. The report was written by Philippa Mitcheson. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The Finds Report was prepared by Teresa Gilmore. The archive has been compiled by Philippa Mitcheson, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1981 *Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 217 Moreton-in-Marsh. Scale:1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2005a *Land at White Hart Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation. CA Typescript report 05162*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2005b *Well View, Well Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire: Programme of Archaeological Recording*. CA Typescript report **05166**

Leech, R 1981 *Historic Towns in Gloucestershire*

Parry, C 1999 'Excavations at Camp Gardens, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire', in *Trans. Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeology. Soc* **117**, 75-87

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Turf and topsoil: dark brown organic clay silt			0.4	
1001	Fill	Limestone fragments within a dark brown clay silt matrix. Upper fill of 1002			0.9	Mid C16/ later C17
1002	Cut	Sub-circular quarry pit				
1003	Layer	Natural geology: limestone brash				
1004	Fill	Orange brown limestone fragments in a mid brown clay silt matrix. Lower fill of 1002				
1005	Cut	Sub-circular modern pit				
1006	Fill	Dark brown clay silt. Fill of 1005				
1007	Cut	Sub-circular quarry pit				
1008	Fill	Limestone fragments within a dark brown clay silt matrix. Upper fill of 1007			0.6	
1009	Fill	Orange brown limestone fragments in a mid brown clay silt matrix. Lower fill of 1007				

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS*Finds Concordance*

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1001	Post-medieval pottery: Frechen stoneware	1	63	MC16-LC17
	Animal bone: adult pig humerus, sheep-sized metacarpal	2	147	
1004	Animal bone: distal sheep tibia	1	46	-
	Oyster shell: <i>ostrea edulis</i>	1	15	

APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using a Leica System 1200 DGPS.

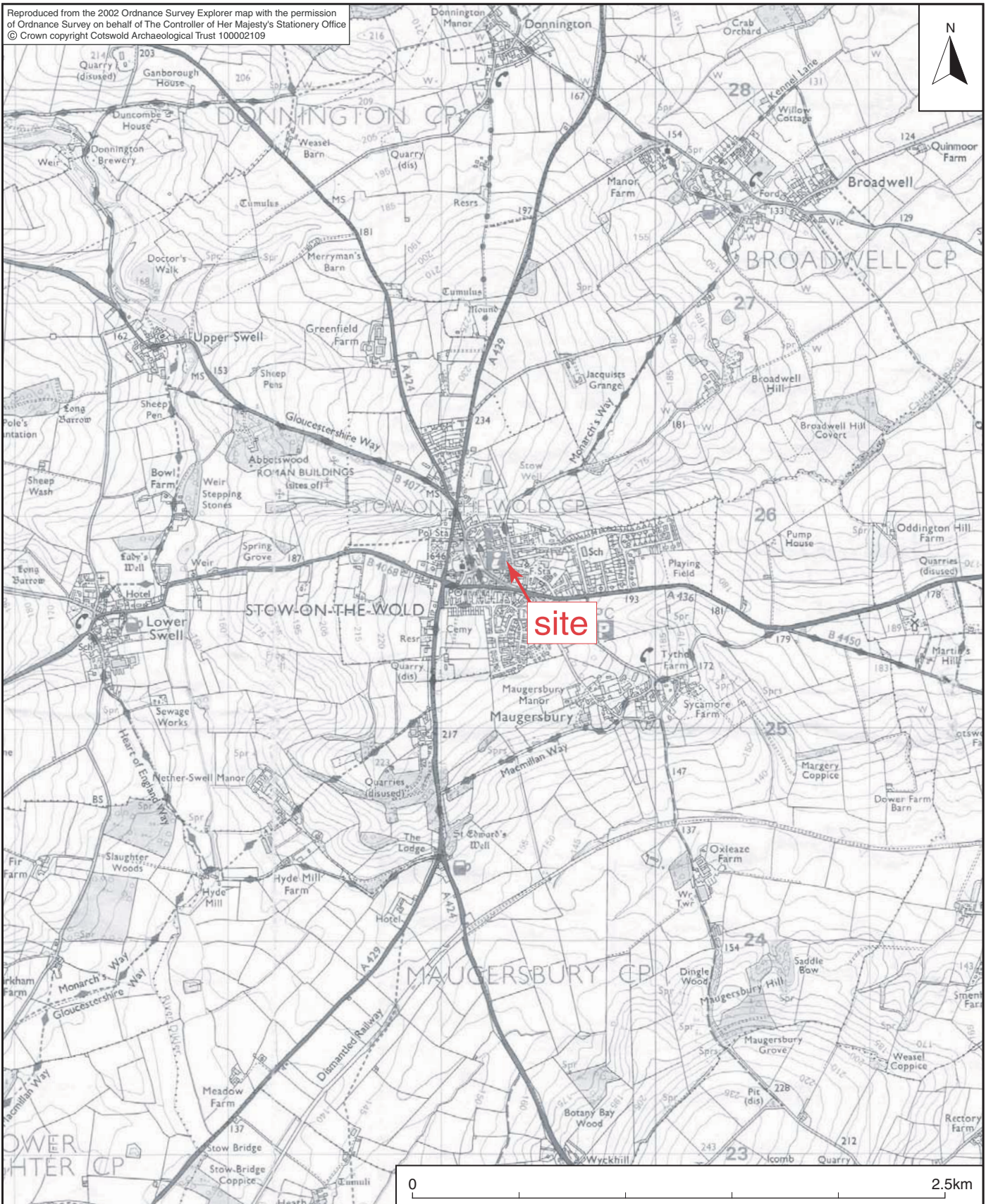
	Trench 1
Current Ground Level	0.00m (227.20m)
Top of upper quarry backfills	0.41m (226.79m)
Top of lower quarry backfills	0.66m (226.54m)
Limit of excavation	1.36m (225.84m)

Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Mossway, Old Forge Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2008 at the request of Dr and Mrs Dean at Mossway, Old Forge Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated. Two quarry pits were revealed in the trench. Both contained two fills of quarry waste consisting of limestone within a clay silt matrix. The upper fill of the northern quarry pit contained a single sherd of imported German stoneware of 16th/17th century date.	
Project dates	15 August 2008	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Mossway, Old Forge Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, GL54 1DB	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.067ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 1928 2580	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Alistair Barber	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Corinium Museum	Ceramics, animal bone
Paper	Corinium Museum	Context sheets, trench sheets, matrix, drawings, photographic registers, levels registers, WSI, colour and black and white photographs
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Mossway, Old Forge Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA Typescript report 08169		

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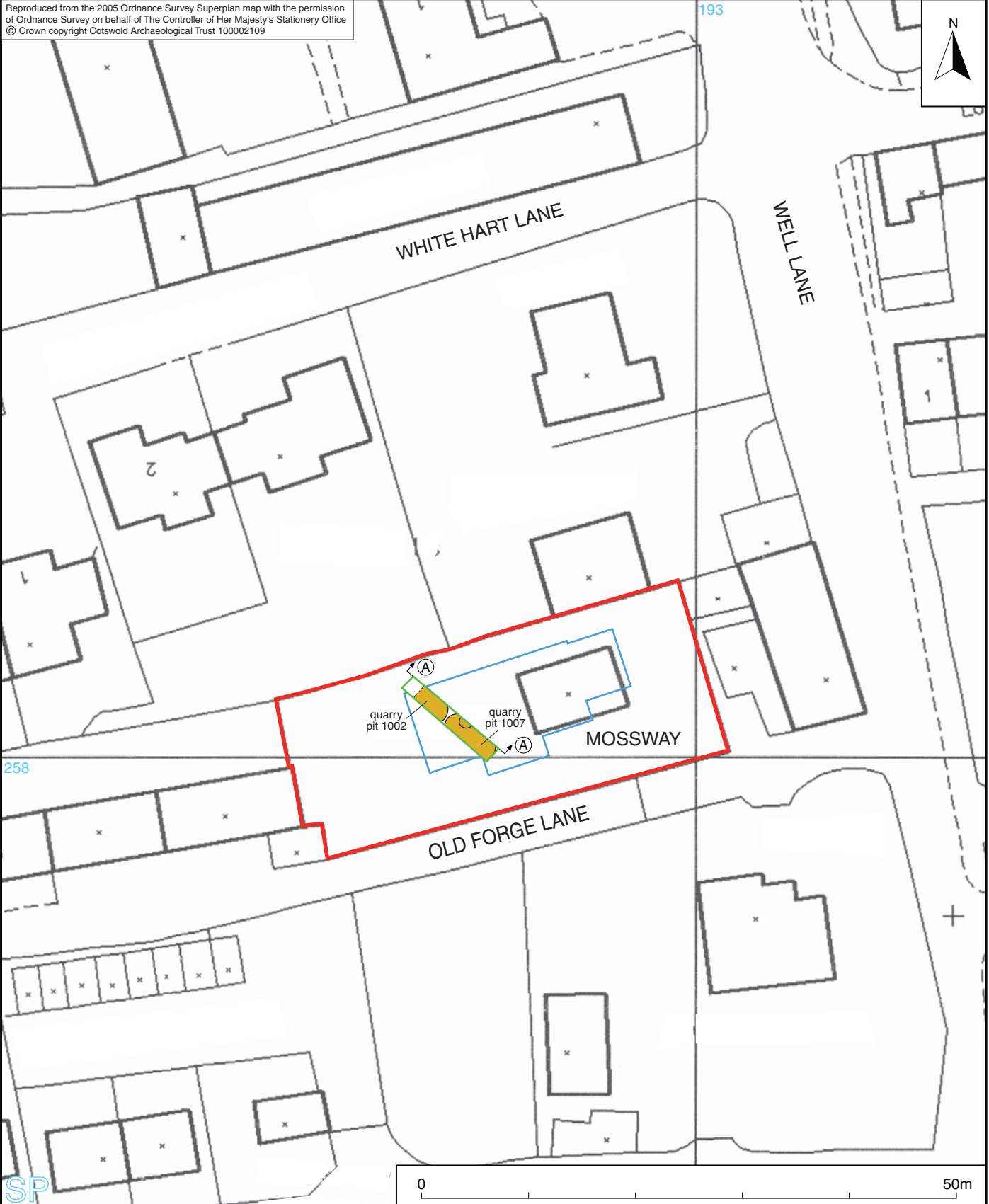
 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
**Mossway, Old Forge Lane
 Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

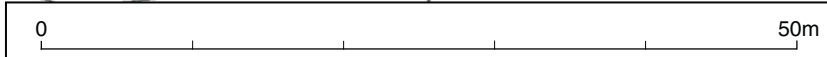
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:25,000@A4	2693	1

193



258

SP



- site
- evaluation trench showing archaeological features
- area of proposed development



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**Mossway, Old Forge Lane
 Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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