

**TARLTON TOWER TO HARESDOWN
BARN RISING MAIN, RODMARTON
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

THAMES WATER UTILITIES LTD

CA PROJECT: 2563
CA REPORT: 08105


AUGUST 2008



TARLTON TOWER TO HARESDOWN BARN
RISING MAIN, RODMARTON
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2563
CA REPORT: 08105

prepared by	Stuart Joyce, Project Supervisor
date	22 May 2008
checked by	Cliff Bateman, Project Manager
date	26 August 2008
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	28 August 2008 
date	
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Tarlton Tower to Haresdown Barn Rising Main
Location: Gloucestershire
NGR: ST 9585 9940 to ST 9564 9766
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 6 to 16 May 2008
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum, Cirencester
Site Code: TAR 08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the replacement of the rising water main between Tarlton Tower and Haresdown Barn, Rodmarton, Gloucestershire. The watching brief was undertaken at the request of Thames Water Utilities Ltd.

Two undated postholes were observed cutting the natural limestone substrate. In addition, a fragment from a Mesolithic/Neolithic flint blade and two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the modern ploughsoil.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) undertook an archaeological watching brief during the replacement of the rising water main between Tarlton Tower and Haresdown Barn, Rodmarton, Gloucestershire (NGR: ST 9585 9940 to ST 9564 9766; Fig. 1). The work, which was commissioned by Thames Water Utilities Ltd (TWUL), constituted Permitted Development under the terms of the Town and Country Planning Act and was exempt from the requirements for planning permission under the General Development Order. Thames Water chose to commission the archaeological cover in accordance with the Code of Practice on Conservation, Access and Recreation, published as a result of the 1989 Water Act.

The site

1.2 The pipeline is approximately 1.7km in length and runs from Tarlton Water Tower (NGR ST 9585 9940) across arable farmland to the existing pumping station north of Haresdown Barn (centred on NGR ST 9564 9766).

1.3 The site lies at approximately 155m AOD at its northern limit sloping gently to the south to 132m AOD. The underlying solid geology, mapped as Oolitic Limestone of the Middle Jurassic era (BGS 1974), was encountered throughout the pipeline route.

Archaeological background

1.4 The pipeline lies in an area of known archaeological potential. Two bowl barrows, protected as Scheduled Monuments, (National Monuments 22897: Two Bowl Barrows 180m south east of Haresdown Barn) are recorded 300m south-west of the existing pumping station. Within fields adjacent to the pipeline, undated cropmarks have previously been recorded.

Methodology

1.5 Following preliminary discussions between Claudia Innes, TWUL Ecology and Heritage Team and Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) it was agreed that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during intrusive groundworks associated with the construction of the

pipeline. The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008) with an archaeologist monitoring soil stripping and the subsequent cutting of the pipe trench. The southern limit of the pipe route was auger bored and required no soil stripping (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).

- 1.6 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007). Where isolated features were encountered they were geo-located utilising a Leica Smart Rover DGPS.
- 1.7 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 C will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 A 15m wide working strip was fenced throughout the pipeline corridor within which topsoil stripping was undertaken. Natural Oolitic Limestone was revealed throughout the fenced corridor typically at depth of 0.30m below present ground level. It was intermittently overlain by subsoil, but more typically was immediately sealed by modern ploughsoil.
- 2.2 Two possible postholes, located at NGR ST 95808 99081 and ST 95707 98213, were identified cutting the limestone substrate within fields 2 and 4 respectively (see Fig. 2). No artefactual material was retrieved from either feature.

The Finds

- 2.3 Two sherds of post-medieval pottery and a worked flint blade were recovered from the topsoil within field 2. The pottery comprises Ashton Keynes glazed ware dating from the 16th to 18th centuries and modern flowerpot-type unglazed earthenware. Both sherds showed signs of abrasion. The flint blade fragment is broadly datable to the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. No artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered from the remaining fields.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site, the watching brief identified limited evidence of archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. Two undated postholes were identified, although their apparent isolation prohibits further interpretation. No deposits or features associated with the adjacent cropmarks were identified during the current works.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce who also wrote the report. The finds were identified by Teresa Gilmore and the illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *England and Wales Sheet 252 Solid and Drift 1:63360 series: Swindon*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Tarlton Tower to Haresdown Barn Rising Main, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Field 1 – Northern boundary of the field 156.17m AOD, southern boundary of the field 153.66m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1.100	Layer	Topsoil – Dark yellow brown clay silt. Friable compaction.			0.25	
1.101	Layer	Natural – Oolitic limestone.			-	

Field 2– Northern boundary of the field 153.66m AOD, southern boundary of the field 147.91m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1.200	Layer	Topsoil – Dark yellow brown clay silt. Friable compaction.			0.22	
1.201	Layer	Subsoil – mid orange-brown silty clay			0.08	
1.202	Layer	Natural – Oolitic limestone.			-	
1.203	Cut	Cut of oval post hole	0.55	0.38	0.28	
1.204	Deposit	Fill of post hole 1.203	0.55	0.38	0.28	

Field 3 – Northern boundary of the field 147.91m AOD, southern boundary of the field 142.30m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1.300	Layer	Topsoil – Mid orange-brown clay silt. Friable compaction.			0.35	
1.301	Layer	Natural – Oolitic limestone.			-	

Field 4 – Northern boundary of the field 142.38m AOD, southern boundary of the field 132.68m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1.400	Layer	Topsoil – Mid orange-brown clay silt. Friable compaction.			0.35	
1.401	Layer	Natural – Oolitic limestone.			-	
1.402	Cut	Cut of post hole	0.44	0.17	0.38	
1.403	Deposit	Fill of post hole 1.403	0.44	0.17	0.38	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

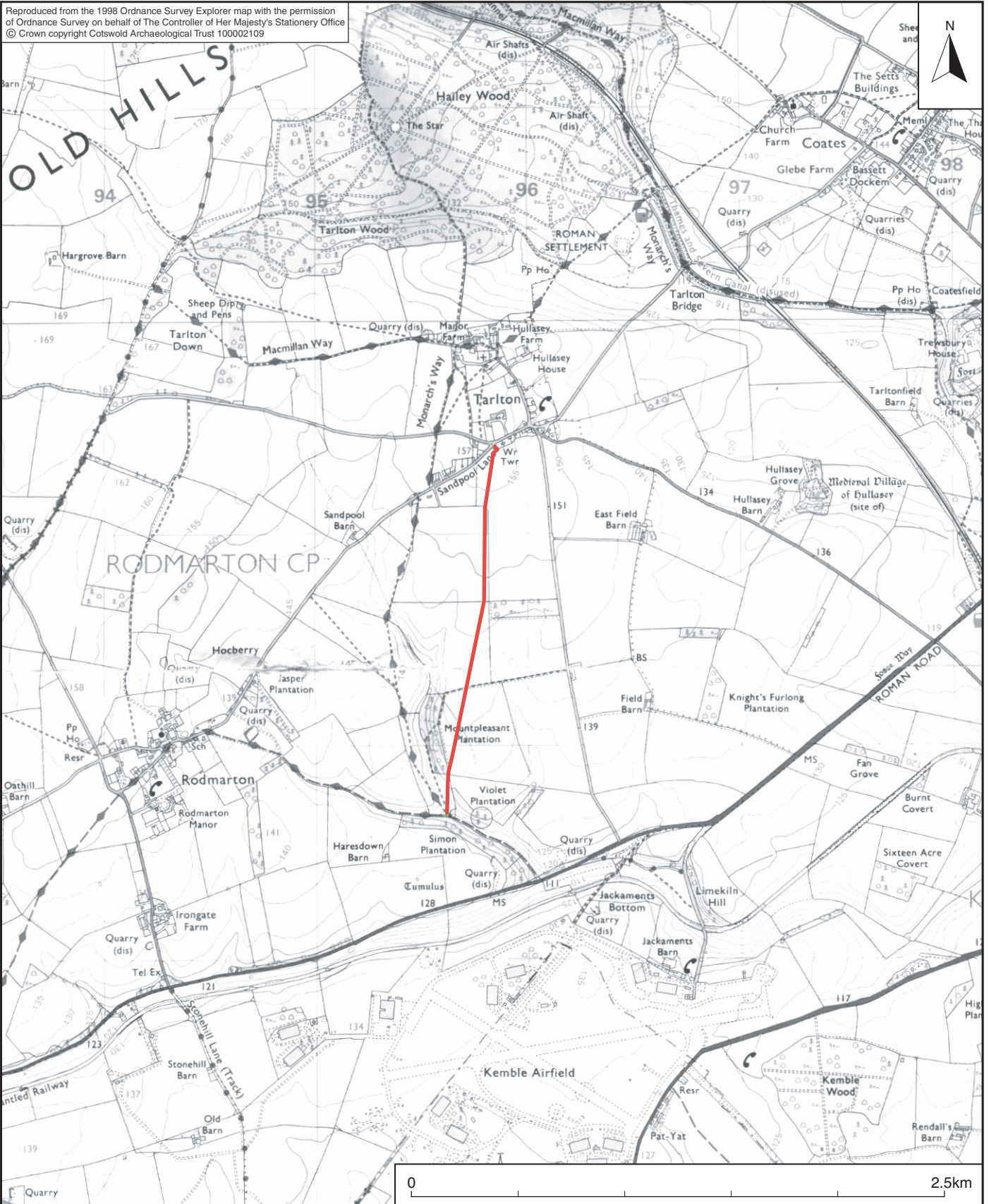
Finds Concordance


Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1.201	Post-medieval pottery: Ashton Keynes glazed ware, flowerpot	2	32	C16-C18+
	Worked flint: blade fragment	1	1	

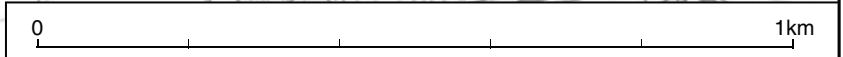
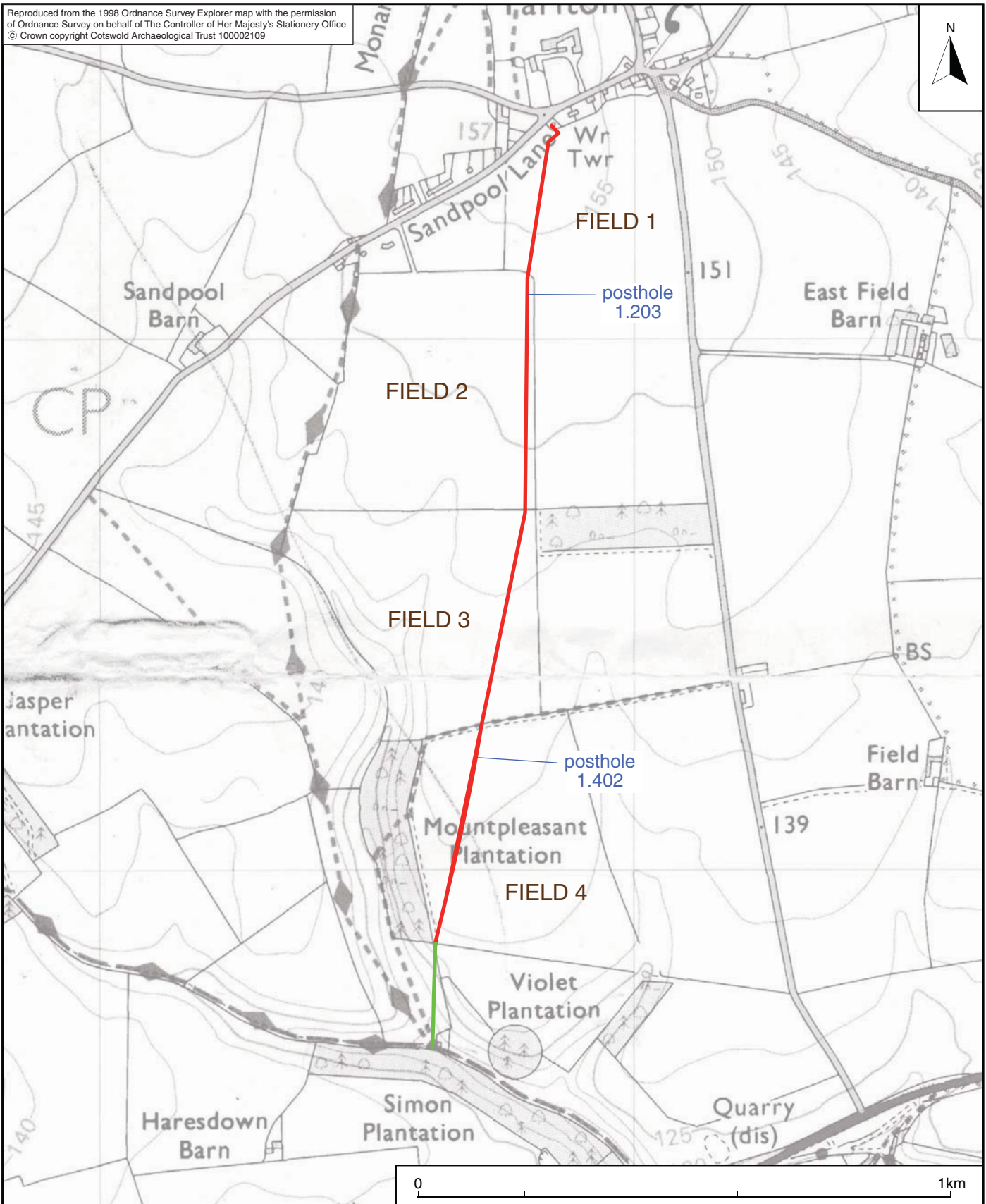
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Tarlton Tower to Haresdown Barn Rising Main	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the replacement of the rising water main between Tarlton Tower and Haresdown Barn, Rodmarton, Gloucestershire. The watching brief was undertaken at the request of Thames Water Utilities Ltd. Two undated postholes were observed cutting the natural limestone substrate. In addition, a fragment from a Mesolithic/Neolithic flint blade and two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the modern ploughsoil.	
Project dates	6 to 16 May 2008	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Not known	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Tarlton Tower to Haresdown Barn, Rodmarton, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.55 ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 9585 9940 to ST 9564 9766	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None supplied	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Corinium Museum	Ceramics and flint
Paper	Corinium Museum	WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Tarlton Tower to Haresdown Barn Rising Main, Rodmarton, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . Typescript report 08105		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Tarlton Tower to Haresdown Barn rising main, Rodmarton, Gloucestershire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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- observed pipeline route
- augered pipeline route

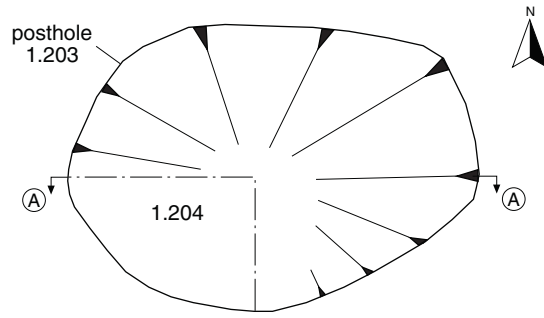


COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

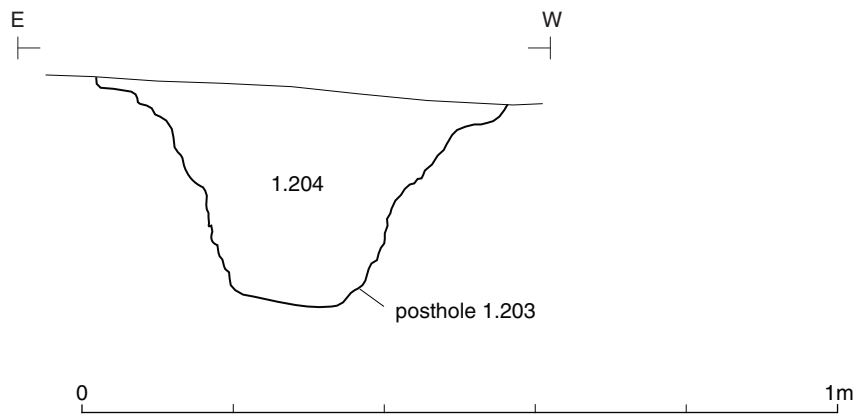
PROJECT TITLE
 Tarlton Tower to Haresdown Barn rising main, Rodmarton, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site showing location of groundworks and features

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PJM	1:10,000@A4	2563	2



Section AA



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Tarltan Tower to Haresdown Barn rising main, Rodmarton, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Posthole 1.203: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY

PJM

SCALE

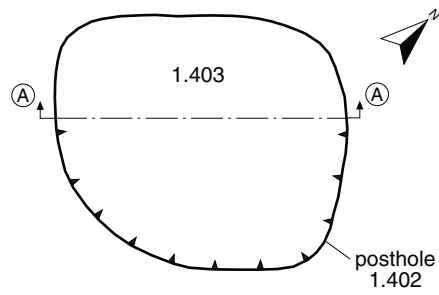
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PROJECT NO.

2563

FIGURE NO.

3



Section AA



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Tarltan Tower to Haresdown Barn rising main, Rodmarton, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Posthole 1.402: plan, section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

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