



# Land at Whitchurch Church Lane, Bristol, Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation



for: RPS Consulting Services Ltd

CA Project: AN0293 CA Report: AN0293\_1 Accession Code: TBC

April 2021



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# **SUMMARY**

**Project name:** Land at Whitchurch Church Lane,

**Location:** Bristol, Somerset

**NGR:** 360750 167083

Type: Evaluation

**Date:** 01–05 March 2021

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Bristol Museums and Art Galleries and the

Archaeology Data Service (ADS)

Accession Code: TBC

Site Code: LWIC21

In March, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Whitchurch, Bristol, Somerset. A total of 9 trenches were excavated.

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the significance of the anomalies identified in the previous geophysical survey and in this regard, it was successful. The conclusions of the geophysical survey suggested that the anomalies may represent a high-status Roman structure, possibly a coin mint. The evaluation was able to confirm that this was not the case.

Several features and deposits were identified that contained late prehistoric pottery. These included parts of a dark occupation layer found in sporadic patches across the site. With the exception of the modern gullies in **Trench 1** and possibly **Trench 5**, the features are either capped by the occupation layer or contain fills very similar in form to this layer. The environmental samples taken from the occupation layer suggest that the deposit is indicative of hearth waste. The lack of *insitu* burning across the site means that the deposit was most likely derived from activity close to the site, probably washed in from the raised ground to the south-west while most of the features were still open or partially silted-up.

Using the geophysical results we can tentatively phase the features identified by the evaluation. Ditches **602** and **707** appear to form part of the same late prehistoric rectilinear enclosure system. This appears to be truncated by the large south-west/north-east ditch running across the site, identified in **Trenches 2**, **4** and **5**, as ditches **203**, **403** and ditch **505**. Ditch **802** forms part of a separate rectilinear enclosure of which the western extent is

missing in the geophysical survey. It seems probable that ditch **709** is a continuation of this enclosure ditch.

Although it is hard to draw any firm conclusions from the evaluation results, because of the poor dating material recovered, it is clear that there is not a high-status building of any period on site. The lack of finds from the majority of features suggests that the archaeology that is present, is most likely agricultural in nature. The enclosures and boundaries they form are most likely associated with the settlement activity shown in the geophysics to the north-west and possible activity on the higher ground to the south-west.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In March 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Whitchurch Church Lane, Bristol, Somerset centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 360750 167083 (see Figure 1). This evaluation was undertaken for RPS Consulting Services Ltd.
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application for residential development of the site, which will be made to Bath and North East Somerset Council (BaNES).
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was agreed with Steve Membery, archaeological advisor to BaNES. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2021) and approved by Steve Membery.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also in line with Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation (Historic England 2015) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015).

#### The site

- 1.5. The proposed development site is approximately 37ha in extent. It lies to the south of Whitchurch and currently comprises of a large number of fields used for animal pasture. The site is bounded by Whitchurch to the North, the A37 to the East and agricultural land to the West and South.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the south-west part of the site is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation formed approximately in the Jurassic Period. The south-east and north-east part of the site lies on Wilmcote Limestone Member, Saltford Shale Member and Rugby Limestone Member that belong to Blue Lias Formation that formed in Jurassic Period. No superficial deposit is mapped within the site (BGS 2021).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment was produced by RPS in June 2020, a subsequent geophysical survey was carried out in November 2020 by Magnitude Surveys. A succinct summary of the DBA and geophysical survey results is given below.

#### **Prehistoric**

- 2.2. There are no Prehistoric heritage assets recorded within the study site.
- 2.3. There is evidence, however, for occupation within the wider study area during the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods. In addition, the Maes Knoll camp Iron Age hillfort, a scheduled monument, lies partially within the study area, the boundary of the monument being approximately 500m to the southwest of the study site at its closet point.
- 2.4. The univallate hillfort is triangular in shape, with an entrance at the southern angle. The western approach to the fort is dominated by a large cross-bank and ditch. A cross-ridge rampart with outer ditch known as Maes Knoll Tump is located at the northwest corner of the hillfort. The gap between the Tump and the northern scarp is probably original though enlarged. Of the northern defences only a trace of a bank remains. The remainder of the defences are comparatively slight, a single bank and rock-cut ditch, heavily ploughed down on the southern side. The defences are heavily dependent of the strong natural position and largely consist of a steepening of the existing natural scarps. The exception to this is Maes Knoll Tump and the associated ditch built on the northwest side which bars the only level approach.

#### Roman

- 2.5. There are two Roman heritage assets recorded within the study site. Evidence for Roman occupation, including evidence for industrial activity, burials and a coin hoard, has been identified within the study site. A single Roman coin has also been recovered adjacent to the study site boundary, whilst a second was recovered approximately 75m to the northwest.
- 2.6. Within the study area, evidence for Roman occupation has been identified approximately 600m to the north and 600m to the northeast of the study site.

# **Anglo-Saxon and Medieval**

- 2.7. There are no early medieval or medieval heritage assets recorded within the study site, although earthworks visible on aerial photographs to the south of Lyons Court Fam on aerial photos may represent medieval field boundaries. Other evidence for possible medieval agricultural activity is recorded at a number of locations within the study area, although the dates for these may extend into the post-medieval period.
- 2.8. The Wansdyke Scheduled Monument, a major linear boundary that is thought to have been constructed in the Saxon /early medieval period is located approximately 770m to the south of the study site. The Wansdyke passes along the northern boundary of Maes Knoll hillfort and survives in the form of a broad bank with a ditch on its northern side that re-uses or redefines the earlier Iron Age defences.
- 2.9. In the later Saxon and early medieval period the study site appears to have been situated within the Keynsham Hundred. Whitchurch, or Filton as it was previously known, is not explicitly referred to in the Domesday Survey (1086 AD) but is likely to have formed part of the entry for Keynsham. During the medieval period the area formed part of the estate belonging to Keynsham Abbey, founded by an Augustinian order in the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century. The Abbey held the Manor until the Dissolution in the mid-sixteenth century.
- 2.10. The Church of St Nicholas, a Grade II\* Listed Building located approximately 400m to the north of the study site, has 12<sup>th</sup> century origins and is located close to the presumed medieval core of Whitchurch. The former location of a medieval cross base adjacent to Queen Charlton Lane, adjacent to the study site boundary, is recorded within the HER, although there is no evidence to support its identification. The stone slabs forming the square base have been relocated to the centre of Whitchurch.
- 2.11. Lyons Court Farmhouse, a Grade II\* Listed Building located approximately 100m to the north of the study site, has 15<sup>th</sup> century origins.

## **Post Medieval and Modern**

- 2.12. There are no post-medieval or Modern heritage assets within the study site.
- 2.13. The earliest maps to show the study site in any detail are the 1839/1840 Whitchurch and Norton Malreward tithe maps. The field boundaries remain virtually unchanged on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map, although the study site is now bisected by a

railway line. The subsequent Ordnance Survey maps show very little change within the study site, although the expansion of Whitchurch and the Bristol suburbs is apparent from the 1970s onwards.

2.14. There are also three undated non-designated heritage assets recorded within the study area all of which are described as earthworks.

# **Previous Archaeological Work**

- 2.15. Excavations undertaken by Philip Rahtz in the 1960-61 to the south of Lyons Court Farm identified evidence for Roman settlement and industrial activity and recovered Roman pottery sherds, coins and coin moulds. The archaeological potential of the site had been indicated as early as the late 19th century following the recovery of two Roman stone coffins from the vicinity. The subsequent recovery of fragments of Roman mosaic from plough soil in the area led to suggestions that a Roman villa may have been located in the vicinity, although this remains unproven.
- 2.16. A geophysical survey undertaken within the study site identified a number of anomalies of a probable archaeological origin. The findings included enclosures, possible occupation areas and part of a possible ring ditch, all located to the south of Lyon's Court and Church Farm.
- 2.17. Archaeological investigations undertaken in advance of development approximately 600m to the northeast of the study site identified evidence for a Bronze Age settlement, including hut circles and pit clusters. An Iron Age pit was identified in advance of development approximately 200m to the north of the study site.
- 2.18. Limited archaeological investigations of Maes Knoll camp Scheduled Monument undertaken by Philip Rahtz in the 1960s recovered probable Iron Age pottery, whilst a geophysical survey of the monument undertaken in 1995 identified a curving alignment of pits, thought to represent the post holes for a stockade, storage pits, hearths and a possible hut circle.
- 2.19. Roman pottery and building materials associated with cut features were identified approximately 600m to the northwest of the study site during archaeological investigations undertaken in advance of the installation of a water main.

#### **Magnitude Geophysical Survey 2020**

2.20. The geophysical survey identified anomalies of probable archaeological origin across the northern half of the survey area, some of which appear to extend into the complex of enclosures and discrete cut features previously detected by geophysical survey in areas adjacent to the current survey area. Further anomalies correspond closely to extant linear and curvilinear earthwork remains of probable medieval boundaries and enclosures. A possible spread of building rubble may indicate a former structure. Anomalies have also been detected that may indicate multiple pits or similar features but cannot be categorically identified as anthropogenic in origin. Anomalies related to agricultural use have been detected and interpreted as ploughing trends, land drains, ridge and furrow and trackways. The impact of modern activity on the site is limited to magnetic interference around field perimeters and caused by buried services.

# 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable BaNES to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).
- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to investigate and ascertain the significance of the geophysical anomalies, located centrally within the site, which are thought to be the remains of a possible Roman mint.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of nine 30m x 1.8m trenches (Figure 2).
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies identified in this part of the site. The positions of **Trenches 6** and **9** were modified on site due to the presence of hedgerows and trees.

- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. All locations of trenches were scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and genny equipment, in accordance with the CA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.4. Small sondages were excavated by machine in **Trenches 4**, **5** and **8** in order to test and establish the geological stratigraphy of the trench.
- 4.5. A geoarchaeological assessment took place on 5<sup>th</sup> March in order to establish nature and origin of sediments covering archaeological features in all of the trenches.
- 4.6. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.7. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential and samples were taken in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites.
- 4.8. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.9. CA will make arrangements with Bristol Museums and Art Galleries for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.10. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix E will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

# 5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B. Details of the environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are given in Section 7 and Appendix C.
- 5.2. **Trenches 1**, **2**, **4**, **5**, **6**, **7** and **8** contained archaeological features that correlated well with geophysical anomalies (Fiure. 2).
- 5.3. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in **Trench 3** and **Trench 9**.
- 5.4. In general, the recorded geology was uniform across the site. The lowermost natural substrate consisted of a homogeneous and compact, light blue clay with occasional Blue Lias limestones. The natural substrate was encountered at *c*. 0.40m below the present ground level (bpgl) and was overlain by orange clay with grey mottling and iron oxides accumulations, this layer varied in thickness from *c*. 0.10m to *c*. 0.30m. This was sealed by layer of thin colluvium that consisted of red/yellow clay with mottling and manganese accumulations. The colluvial layer was from *c*. 0.04m to *c*. 0.20m thick and was recorded in all trenches. Approximately 0.25m thick, grey/brown clayey topsoil was recorded in all trenches.
- 5.5. A dark to mid-greyish, silty clay deposit that contained charcoal and Sandstone fragments, was recorded in **Trenches 4**, **5**, **6** and **7** (**402**, **502**, **509**, **605** and **703**). It was identified at an average depth of *c*. 0.25m and was sealed by the colluvium. These layers have tentatively been interpreted as occupation debris, which may have either been washed into the site from the higher ground to the south or been left by a period of sustained activity across the site.

# Trench 1 (Figure 3)

5.6. Trench 1 contained a pit and a gully. Pit 104 was recorded centrally within the trench and was 2m long, 1m wide and 0.18m deep. A fragment of Late prehistoric pottery was recovered from the pit. The pit was cut by north-east/south-west oriented post medieval gully 102. The gully was 3.7m long, 0.57m wide and 0.10m deep and contained industrial waste material, coal and modern ceramic material. The gully was not identified by the geophysical survey.

# Trench 2 (Figure 4)

**Trench 2** contained one ditch. Ditch **203** was aligned north-east/south-west centrally in the trench and correlated well with a linear geophysical anomaly. This ditch was 4.2m wide and 0.25m deep and contained fills **205** and **204**. The lower fill consisted of dark grey sand/clay with fragments of sandstones and charcoal and appears to be very similar to the dark organic deposits **402**, **502** and **605** and the fill recorded within ditches **403**, **505**, and **802**. It did not contain any datable material.

# Trench 4 (Figure 4)

5.7. Trench 4 contained one ditch. Ditch 403 was located towards the northern end of the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment. The ditch appears to be a possible continuation of ditch 203, and ditch 505 and correlates well with a linear anomaly identified in by geophysical survey. Ditch 403 was 3.25m wide and 0.47m deep. It did not contain any datable material.

# **Trench 5 (Figure 5)**

- 5.8. Trench 5 contained two ditches and one pit. Ditch 503 was recorded in the middle of Trench 5 cutting deposit 502. The ditch was on a north-east/south-west alignment and appeared to be a possibly continuation of modern gully 103, recorded in Trench 1. It was 0.59m wide and 0.13m deep, it was not visible on the geophysics and did not contain any datable material.
- 5.9. Ditch **505** was located towards the southern end of the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment. The ditch appeared to be a continuation of ditches **203**, and **403** and correlated well with a linear anomaly identified in the geophysical survey. Ditch **505** was 1.8m wide and 0.48m deep and contained a dark grey clay fill, very similar to deposits **402**, **502** and **605**, found elsewhere on site. It produced two struck flint flakes but no datable material.
- 5.10. Pit **510** was located centrally along the southern edge of the trench, just to the north-east of ditch **503**. The pit was 1.05m long, 0.61m wide and 0.33m deep and did not produce any datable material.

### **Trench 6 (Figure 6)**

5.11. **Trench 6** contained one ditch. Ditch **602** was located towards the northern end of the trench on a north-west/south-east alignment. The ditch was unclear in the plan as it was cut through and filled by a very similar material. A sondage was hand

excavated across the feature and the adjacent deposits. The ditch was 2.4m wide and 0.38m deep, it produced, struck flint, fired clay and late prehistoric pottery. The ditch correlated well with a linear geophysical anomaly.

# Trench 7 (Figure 8)

- 5.12. Trench 7 contained three ditches. Ditches 705 and 707 were located centrally in the trench 3m apart, parallel to each other on a north-west/south-east alignment. Ditch 705 was 1.43m wide and minimum of 0.35m deep and produced a fragment of undatable industrial waste. Ditch 707 was 0.61 wide and 0.16m deep and did not produce any artefacts.
- 5.13. Neither ditch contained datable but both ditches truncated colluvium deposit **702** and possible occupation deposit **703**, both of which produced prehistoric pottery. Ditch **707** also corelated well with a linear geophysical anomaly and could be a continuation of the enclosure system that prehistoric ditch **602** formed part of.
- 5.14. Ditch **709** was located towards the south-western end of the trench **7** and is mostly a continuation of prehistoric ditch **802**. The ditch was not identified in the geophysical survey and was not excavated here.

### Trench 8 (Figure 9)

- 5.15. Trench 8 contained two ditches. Ditch 802 was located towards the southern end of the trench on a north-west/south-east alignment. It measured 1.89m wide and 0.48m deep and contained Late prehistoric pottery, worked stone and fired clay. The ditch correlated well with a linear geophysical anomaly and might represent a continuation of ditch 709.
- 5.16. Ditch **804** was located towards the northern end of the trench on a north-south alignment. It was 0.21m wide and 0.03m deep, it was not identified in the geophysics and did not contain any artefacts.

#### 6. THE FINDS

6.1. Artefactual material was hand-recovered from 11 deposits (ditch, gully and pit fills, alluvium, redeposited natural and topsoil). The recovered material dates to the prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval/modern periods. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric (Appendix B). Recording also

included form/rim morphology. Pottery codes have been devised for the purpose of this report.

#### **Pottery: Late prehistoric**

6.2. A total of 35 sherds (74g) was recovered from five deposits. The average sherd weight of 2.1g indicates the pottery has been well broken up. Condition in terms of edge abrasion and surface loss is also poor. Two fabrics are present – one tempered with sandstone (SS) and a vesicular fabric (VES). The latter is likely to have resulted from the leaching out of calcareous inclusions due to soil conditions. The pottery is represented by unfeatured bodysherds with the exception of one rimsherd in fabric SS, from a vessel with an internally thickened rim, from alluvium deposit 704. This is suggestive of an Iron Age date and similar dating is most probable for the rest of the assemblage.

#### Roman

6.3. Two flakes of pottery (0.7g) in a fine oxidised fabric (OXIF) from fill **803** of ditch **802** are likely to date to the Romano-British period.

#### Lithics

6.4. A total of four flint flakes (13g), two of which are broken, was recovered. These are not chronologically diagnostic and only broad prehistoric dating can be applied.

#### **Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

6.5. Fill **103** of gully **102** produced a fragment from a modern drainpipe (52g).

#### Other finds

- 6.6. A fragment from a dark green coloured glass bottle (2g) from topsoil deposit **800** is likely to be post-medieval in date.
- 6.7. Four fragments of coal (7.3g) were recorded. Coal was used as fuel from the Roman period onwards.
- 6.8. A small, flat fragment of sandstone (23g) from fill **808** of ditch **802** may represent roofing or could be natural.

# 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

#### Plant macrofossils

- 7.1. A series of four environmental samples (80 litres of soil) were processed from a series of deposits in **Trenches 5** and **8** to evaluate the preservation and range of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. These samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary et al (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has been noted. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).
- 7.3. The flots varied in size with between 50% and 75% rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charred material comprised varying levels of preservation. No hammer scale and/or industrial waste fragments, or any dating evidence were recovered.

#### **Trench 5**

7.4. The assemblage from undated occupation deposit **502** (sample 1) contained a large quantity of charcoal and a few barley (Hordeum vulgare) and hulled wheat (emmer or spelt (Triticum dicoccum/spelta)). The charcoal included round and mature wood fragments and some of the pieces were those of oak (Quercus sp.). This assemblage may be representative of dumped hearth material. The assemblage may be later prehistoric or Roman in date.

#### **Trench 8**

- 7.5. A small charcoal assemblage was recovered from late prehistoric layer 806 (sample 4) which sealed ditch 802, whilst moderate quantity of charcoal, including round and mature wood pieces, a s few barley grain fragments were recorded from the ditch (samples 5 and 6). The ditch assemblages may be representative of hearth material, whereas the assemblage from layer 806 may be reflective of wind-blown/dispersed settlement material.
- 7.6. A few shells of the aquatic species Pisidium sp. were noted in the ditch and overlying layer and may be indicative of some occasional flooding.

#### **Summary**

7.7. There is no indication from these samples of any specific activities such as crop processing or metal working taking place in the immediate vicinity, although there is a suggestion from the hearth material of some settlement activity nearby.

#### **Animal bone**

- 7.8. Animal bone amounting to 42 fragments (45g) was recovered via hand excavation and the processing of bulk soil samples from deposits 506, 507 and 603 the fills of ditches 505 and 602 and from layers 502 and 703. Artefactual material dating broadly to the Late Prehistoric was also recovered from these deposits (See Table 1, Appendix C). The material was fragmentary and the preservational conditions on site were such that the presence of cattle (Bos taurus), sheep/goat (Ovis aries/Capra hircus) and pig (Sus scrofa sp.) was confirmed solely from a limited amount of fragmented molar teeth.
- 7.9. No cut marks or impact damage indicative of butchery waste was observed which, when coupled with the low recovery, limits what can be said about this assemblage in terms of site economy and animal husbandry. However, each species were commonly exploited domestic animals so their inclusion in an assemblage of this period is to be expected.

# 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. The specific aim of the evaluation was to determine the significance of the anomalies identified in the previous geophysical survey and in this regard, it was successful. The conclusions of the geophysical survey suggested that the anomalies may represent a high-status Roman structure, possibly a coin mint. The evaluation was able to confirm that this was not the case.
- 8.2. The colluvial layer found on site made identification of the features in plan difficult. The archaeology tended to be visible through the colluvium but once excavated it was clear that the colluvium capped or partially covered the features. As a result the trenches were re-stripped where necessary and the archaeology re-surveyed.
- 8.3. Several features and deposits were identified that contained Late prehistoric pottery. These included parts of a dark occupation layer found in sporadic patches across the site. With the exception of the modern gullies in **Trench 1** and possibly

**Trench 5**, the features are either capped by the occupation layer or contain fills very similar in form to this layer.

- 8.4. The environmental samples taken from the occupation layer suggest that the deposit is indicative of hearth waste. The lack of insitue burning across the site means that the deposit was most likely derived from activity close to the site, probably washed in from the raised ground to the south-west while most of the features were still open or partially silted up. The inconsistency of the layer across the site supports this interpretation. The evidence of hearth waste suggests that the activity to the south-west was domestic in nature. The geophysical results showed intense prehistoric activity to the north-west but nothing to the south-west, where the ground rises significantly.
- 8.5. Using the geophysical results we can tentatively phase the features identified by the evaluation. Ditches 602 and 707 appear to form part of the same late prehistoric rectilinear enclosure system. This appears to be truncated by the large southwest/north-east ditch running across the site, identified in Trenches 2, 4 and 5, as ditches 203, 403 and ditch 505. Ditch 802 forms part of a separate rectilinear enclosure of which the western extent is missing in the geophysical survey. It seems probable that ditch 709 is a continuation of this enclosure ditch.
- 8.6. Although it is hard to draw any firm conclusions from the evaluation results, because of the poor dating material recovered, it is clear that there is not a high-status building of any period on site. The lack of finds from the majority of features suggests that the archaeology that is present, is most likely agricultural in nature. The enclosures and boundaries they form are most likely associated with the settlement activity shown in the geophysics to the north-west and possible activity on the higher ground to the south-west.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Cliff Bateman, assisted by Katherine Hebbard, Tim Street, Chris Brown and Agata Kowalska. This report was written by Oliver Good. The finds and biological evidence and animal bone reports were written by Jacky Sommerville, Sarah Wyles and Sharon Clough respectively. The report illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The project archive has been compiled by Zoe

Emery, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Oliver Good.

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# **APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context	Туре	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey clay.	30.5	1.8	0-0.24 (0.24)
1	101	Layer		Natural substrata	Mid orange brown clay with grey patches.	30.5	1.8	>0.24 (>0.04)
1	102	Cut		Cut of Gulley	Northeast-southwest aligned linear with concave sides and a flat base, cuts	>0.89	0.26	0.1
1	103	Fill	102		Mid grey brown clayey silt.	>0.89	0.26	0.1
1	104	Cut		Cut of pit	Irregular shape in plan, concave sides, flat base.	>1	>2	0.18
1	105	Fill	104		Mid yellow brown clayey silt.	>1	>2	0.18
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey clay. Very rare limestone inclusions.	30	1.8	0-0.33 (0.33)
2	201	Layer		Colluvium	Mid red/yellow clay with mottling and manganese accumulations	30	1.8	0.33-0.4 (0.07)
2	202	Layer		Natural substrata	Mid yellow orange/brown clay	30	1.8	>0.4
2	203	Cut		Ditch	northeast-southwest aligned. Not excavated. Correlates to geophysics.	>2	4.2	>0.25
2	204	Fill	203	Upper fill	Filled with alluviual clays, yellow brown clay.	>2	4.2	0.08
2	205	Fill	203	Lower fill	Dark grey brown. Fragments of sandstone and charcoal.	>2	4.2	>0.17
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay.	31	1.8	0-0.24 (0.24)
3	301	Layer		Colluvium	Mid red/yellow clay with mottling and manganese accumulations	31	1.8	0.24-0.32 (0.08)
3	302	Layer		Natural substrata	Mid orange brown with grey motling.	31	1.8	>0.32 (>0.05)
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay.	30.7	1.8	0-0.22 (0.22)
4	401	Layer		Colluvium	Mid red/yellow clay with mottling and manganese accumulations	30.7	1.8	0.22-0.35 (0.13)
4	402	Deposit		Occupation layer	Mid/dark grey clay with patches of black/brown clay, contianined inclusions of sandstone.		>1.8	0.22-0.45 (0.23)
4	403	Cut		Ditch	aligned northeast-southwest	>1.8	3.25	0.47
4	404	Fill	403	Secondary fill	Grey brown clay.	>1.8	3.25	0.1
4	405	Fill	403	Secondary fill	Mid/dark grey clay with patches of black/brown clay, contianined inclusions of sandstone.		3.25	0.28
4	406	Fill	403	Primary silting	Primary silting.	>1.8	3.25	0.11
4	407	Layer		Natural substrata	Yellow brown clay.	30.7	1.8	>0.45
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay.	31.2	1.8	0-0.25 (0.25)
5	501	Layer		Natural substrata	Mid orange-yellow brown clay.	31.2	1.8	>0.49
5	502	Deposit		Occupation layer	Mid/dark grey clay with patches of black/brown clay, contianined inclusions of sandstone.		>1.8	0.25-0.49 (0.24)
5	503	Cut		Ditch	Aligned northwest-southeast.	1m slot	0.59	0.13
5	504	Fill	503	Single fill	Mid/dark greyish brown clayey silt, inclusion of sandstone	1m slot	0.59	0.13

5	505	Cut		Ditch	Aligned northeast-southwest.	2.6	1.8	0.48
5	506	Fill	505	Upper fill	Dark greyish black clay, contained inclusions of sandstone.	2.6	1.8	0.26
5	507	Fill	505	Lower fill	Light grey clay.	1.98	1.8	0.24
5	508	Layer		Culluvium	Mid brownish yellow silty clay, occassional inclusions of sandstone.	31.2	1.8	0.1-0.2 (0.1)
5	509	Deposit		Occupation	Mid/dark grey clay with patches of black/brown clay, contianined inclusions of sandstone.		1.8	
5	510	Cut		Pit/Terminus	Pit terminus	0.68	0.59	
5	511	Fill	510	Single fill	Dark greyish black clay, contained inclusions of sandstone.	1.05	0.61	0.33
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt.	29.5	1.85	0-0.21 (0.21)
6	601	Layer		Natural substrata	Mid greyish yellow silty clay, occassional inclusions of sandstone.	29.5	1.85	0.21-0.38 (0.17)
6	602	Cut		Ditch	Aligned northwest-southeast.	>1.85	2.4	0.38
6	603	Fill	602	Single fill	Mid brownish grey clayey silt.	>1.85	2.4	0.38
6	604			Colluvium	Mid red/yellow clay with mottling and manganese accumulations		1.85	
6	605	Deposit		Occupational	Mid greyish yellow silty clay, common inclusions of sandstone.		1.85	0.3
6	606	Layer		Natural substrata		2.88	1.85	0.27
6	607	Layer		Natural substrata	Mid yellow with some light grey patches.		1.85	0.28
6	608	Layer		Natural substrata	Light greyish blue silty clay.	5.4	1.85	0.28
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt.	31.8	1.85	0-0.25 (0.25)
7	701	Layer		Natural substrata	Mid greyish yellow silty clay, occassional inclusions of sandstone.	31.8	1.85	0.25-0.31 (0.06)
7	702	Layer		Colluvium	Mid red/yellow clay with mottling and manganese accumulations	31.8	1.85	0.24-0.45 (0.21)
7	703	Deposit		Occupation Layer	Mid/dark grey clay with patches of black/brown clay, contianined inclusions of sandstone.			
7	704	Layer		Natural substrata	Light blueish grey silty clay.			
7	705	Cut		Ditch	Cut of north-west/south-east aligned ditch	>1.8	1.43	0.35
7	706	Fill	705		Mid brownish grey clayey silt.	>1.8	1.43	0.35
7	707	Cut		Ditch	Cut of north-west/south-east aligned ditch	>1.8	0.61	0.16
7	708	Fill	707		Mid brownish grey clayey silt.	>1.8	0.61	0.16
7	709	Cut		Ditch	Cut of unexcavated ditch (same as 802).		0.62	
7	710	Fill	709			1.85	0.62	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay.	30.2	1.8	0-0.27 (0.27)
8	801	Layer		Natural substrata	Mid orangey brown with grey mottling.	30.2	1.8	0.27-0.41 (0.14)
8	802	Cut		Ditch	Aligned northwest-southeast.	>1.8	1.89	0.48
8	803	Fill	802	Upper fill	Mid brownish yellow silty clay, inclusions of sandstone.	>1.8	1.66	0.15
8	804	Cut		Gully	Aligned southeast-northwest.	2.26	0.21	0.03
8	805	Fill	804	Single fill	Mid orangey brown clay.	2.26	0.21	0.03
8	806	Deposit		Colluvium	Mid red/yellow clay with mottling and manganese accumulations			

8	807	Fill	802	Secondary fill	Dark blackish blue grey clayey silt.	>1.8	1.53	0.19
8	808	Fill	802	Lower fill	Light orangey blue grey silty clay.	>1.8	1.86	0.59
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay.	30.65	1.8	0-0.27 (0.27)
9	901	Layer			Mid red/yellow clay with mottling and manganese accumulations	30.65	1.8	0.27-0.33 (0.06)
9	902	Layer		Natural substrata	Mid orangey brown with grey patches.	30.65	1.8	0.33-0.4 (0.06)

# **APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
103	Modern ceramic building material	Drainpipe		1	52	Modern
	Coal			3	7	
105	Late prehistoric pottery	Vesicular fabric	VES	2	3	Late prehistoric
502	Flint	Flake		1	3	-
506	Flint	Flake		2	9	Prehistoric
603	Late prehistoric pottery	Sandstone-tempered fabric	SS	2	5	Late
	Fired clay			1	2	prehistoric
	Flint	Flake		1	1	
702	Late prehistoric pottery	Sandstone-tempered fabric	SS	1	2	Late
	Late prehistoric pottery	Vesicular fabric	VES	2	3	prehistoric
	Flint	Flake		1	10	
	Coal			1	0.3	
703	Late prehistoric pottery	Sandstone-tempered fabric	SS	4	14	Late
	Late prehistoric pottery	Vesicular fabric	VES	3	5	prehistoric
706	Industrial waste			1	1	-
800	Fired clay			1	2	Post-
	Roman? pottery	Fine oxidised fabric	OXIF	2	0.7	medieval
	Post-medieval glass	Bottle		1	2	
807	Fired clay			1	4	-
808	Late prehistoric pottery Worked stone	Vesicular fabric Roofing?		21 1	42 23	Late prehistoric

# APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

**Table 1:** Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	Ind	BB SS	Total	Weight (g)
	502	1				30	31	9
505	506		1				1	5
505	507		1		3		4	4
602	603	2		1	2		5	25
	703	1					1	2
Total		4	2	1	5	30	42	
Weight		24	6	8	6	1	45	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; Ind= indeterminate; BB SS = burnt, unidentifiable fragments from bulk soil samples

 Table 2: Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

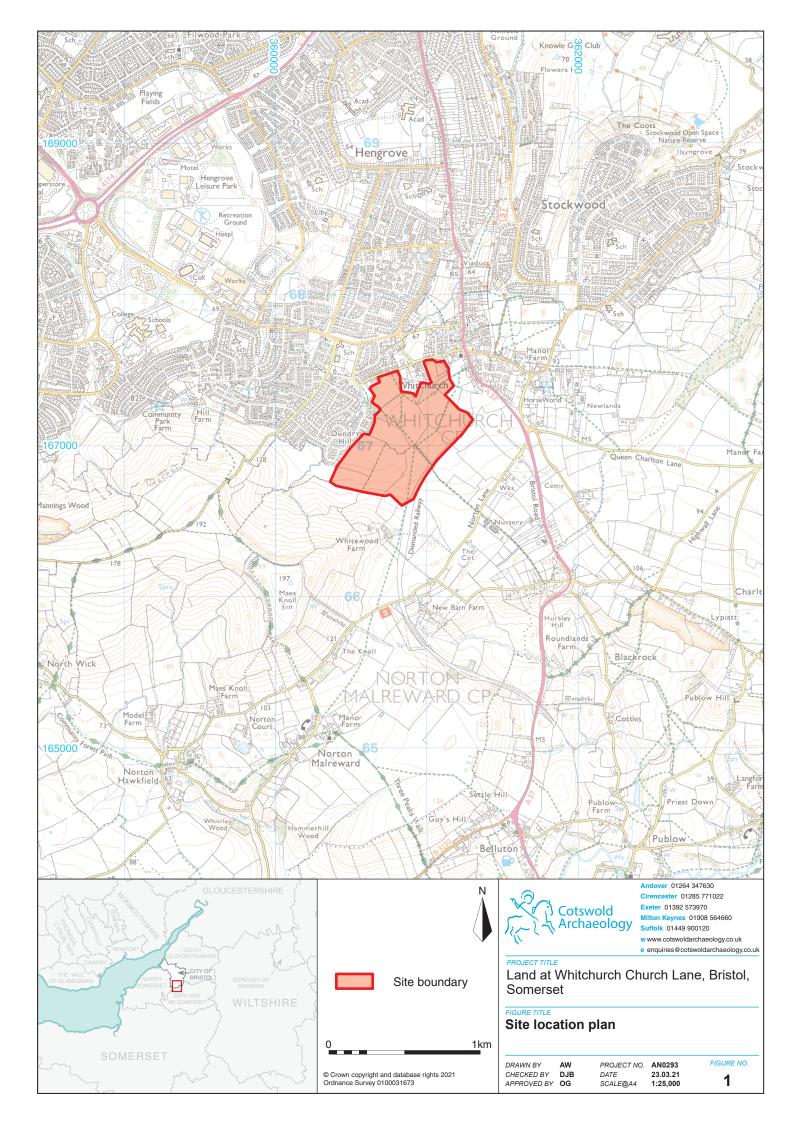
				Flot							
			Vol	size	Roots				Charred	Charcoal >	
Feature	Context	Sample	(L)	(ml)	%	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Other	4/2mm	Other
				Tre	ench 5	Undat	ed Occ	upation Deposit			
	502	1	20	150	60	*	ı	barley + hulled wheat grain frags	-	****/****	-
					Trenc	h 8 Lat	te Preh	istoric Layer			
	806	4	20	100	75	-	-	-	-	**/**	Moll-a (**)
					Trenc	h 8 La	te Preh	nistoric Ditch			
802	807	5	20	50	50	*	-	barley grain frags	-	***/****	Moll-a (*)
002	808	6	20	40	60	-	-	-	-	**/***	-

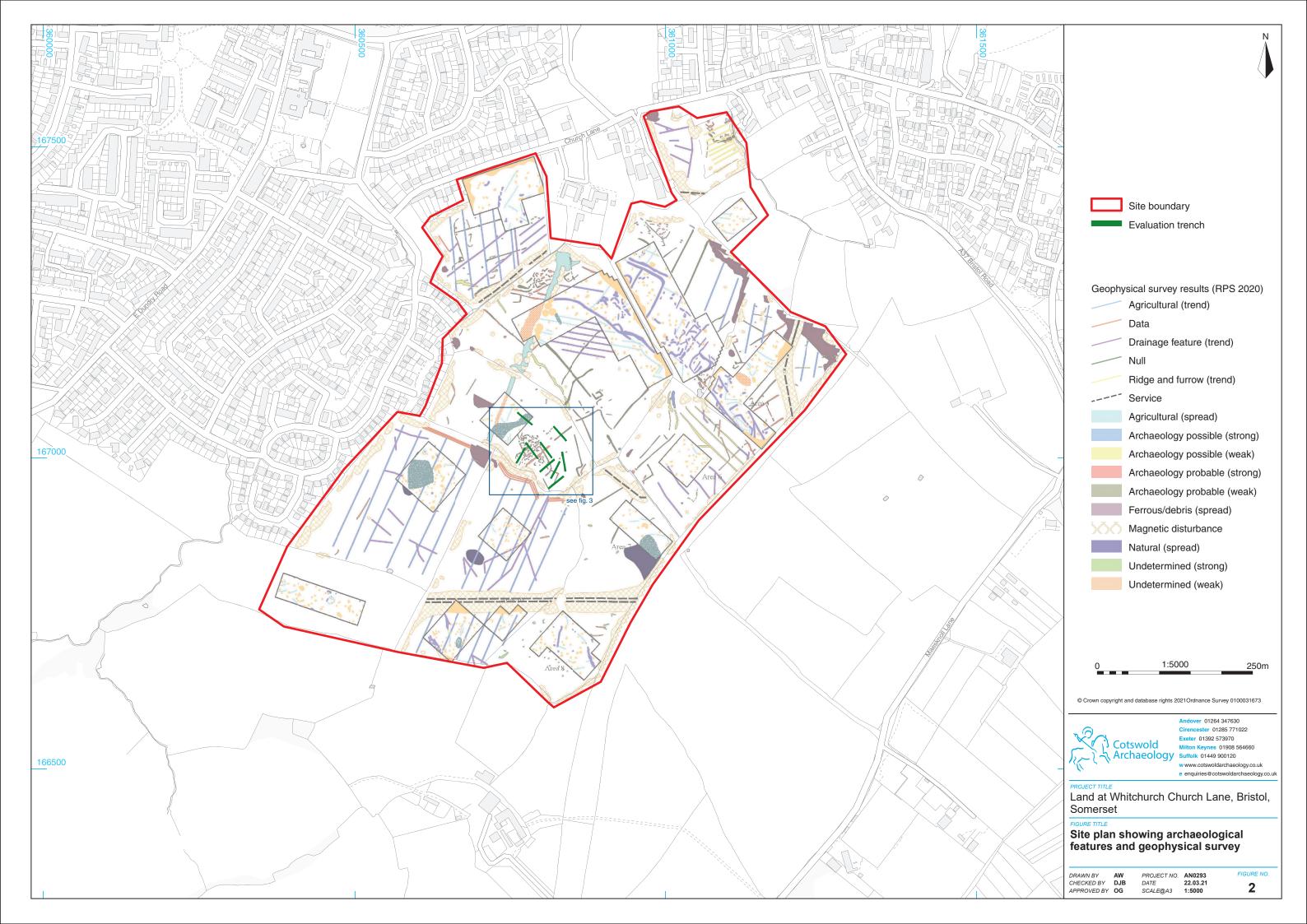
Key: \* = 1–4 items; \*\* = 5-19 items; \*\*\* = 20–49 items; \*\*\*\* = 50–99 items; \*\*\*\*\* = >100 items, Moll-a = aquatic snails

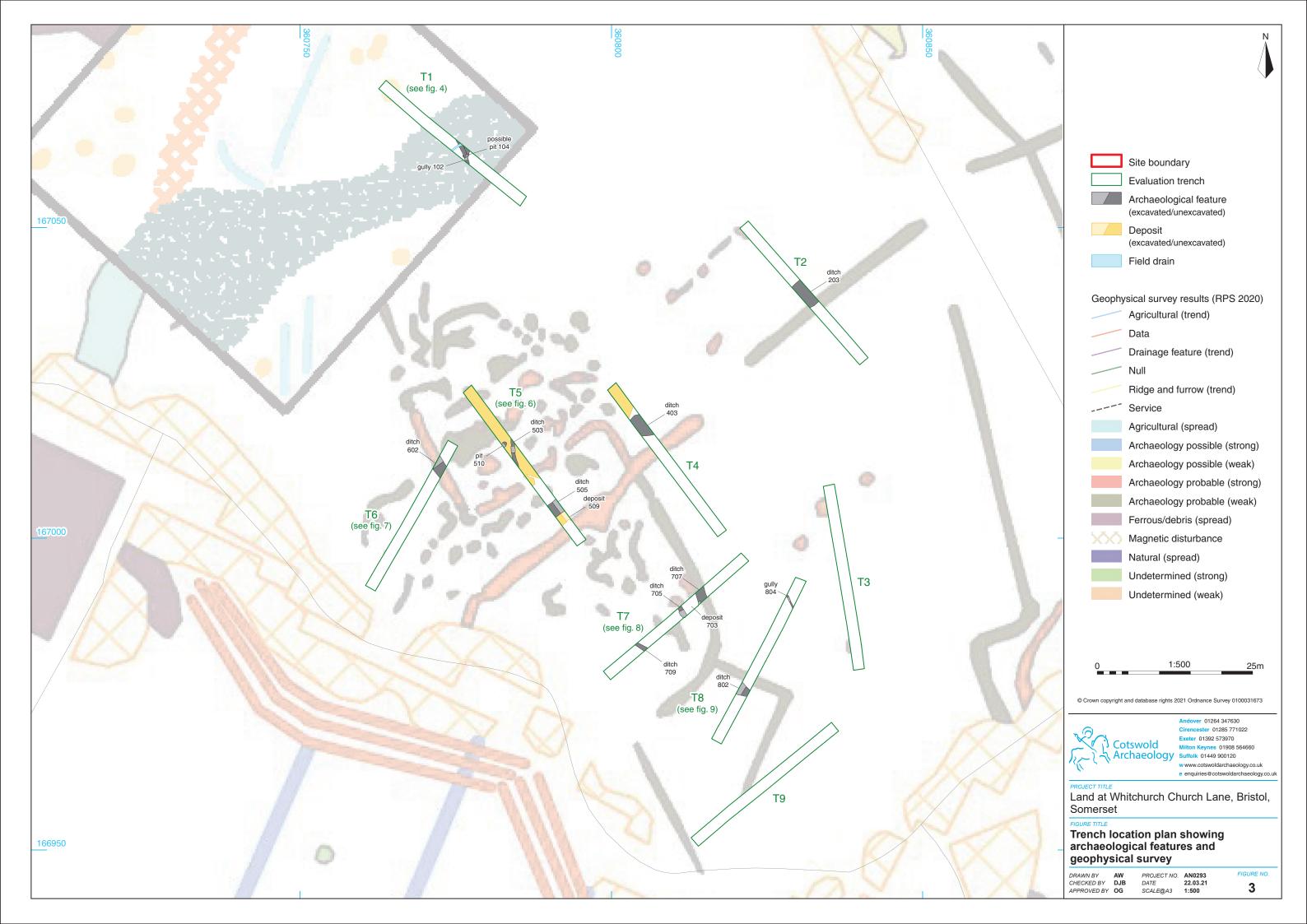
# **APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM**

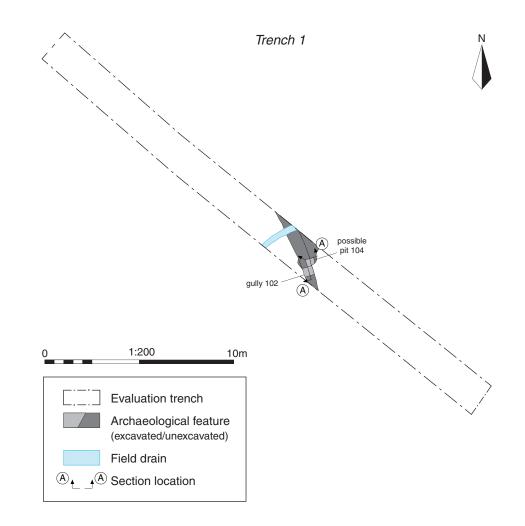
PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land at Whitchurch	
	In March, Cotswold Archaeology carried evaluation of land at Whitchurch, Bristol, trenches were excavated.  The aim of the evaluation was to determ anomalies identified in the previous georegard, it was successful. The conclusion survey suggested that the anomalies marked Roman structure, possibly a coin mint. To confirm that this was not the case.  Several features and deposits were identified in sporadic patches across the site modern gullies in trench 1 and possibly either capped by the occupation layer or form to this layer. The environmental sate occupation layer suggest that the depose waste. The lack of insitue burning acrossed deposit was most likely derived from act probably washed in from the raised groun most of the features were still open or patches and the geophysical results we can televised by the evaluation. Ditches 602 part of the same Late prehistoric rectilines appears to be truncated by the large sour unning across the site, identified in tren 203, 403 and ditch 505. Ditch 802 forms rectilinear enclosure of which the wester geophysical survey. It seems probable the continuation of this enclosure ditch. Although it is hard to draw any firm concresults, because of the poor dating mater that there is not a high-status building of lack of finds from the majority of features archaeology that is present, is most likely	ine the significance of the physical survey and in this as of the geophysical ay represent a high-status the evaluation was able to attified that contained Late of a dark occupation layer as. With the exception of the trench 5, the features are contain fills very similar in amples taken from the it is indicative of hearth as the site means that the ivity close to the site, and to the south-west while artially silted up antatively phase the features and 707 appear to form the art of a separate and the separate of a
	enclosures and boundaries they form an with the settlement activity shown in the	geophysics to the north-
Project dates	west and possible activity on the higher  1st to the 5th of March 2021	ground to the South-West.
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk Based Assessment (RPS 2020) Geophysical Survey( Magnitude Surveys	s 2020)
Future work PROJECT LOCATION	Unknown	
Site location	Land at Whitchurch, Bristol, Somerset	
Study area (m²/ha)	37ha	
Site co-ordinates	360750 167083	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator		
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Oliver Good	
Project Supervisor	Cliff Bateman	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS PROJECT ARCHIVES	None	Content la a matter
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)

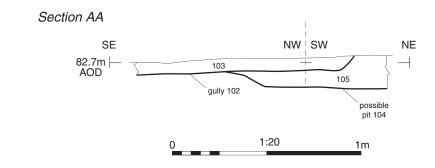
Physical	Bristol Museums and Art Galleries	Ceramics, animal bone,
		flots, worked stone,
		CBM, industrial waste
Paper		Context sheets, trench
		sheets, photo registers
Digital		Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2021 Land at Whitch	urch, Bristol, Somerset: Archaeological Eva	aluation CA typescript
report AN0293_1	•	













Gully 102 and possible pit 104, looking south-west (0.5m scale)



Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 573970 Archaeology Milton Keynes 01908 564660 Suffolk 01449 900120 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.u

Land at Whitchurch Church Lane, Bristol, Somerset

Trench 1: plan, section and photograph

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CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY OG

PROJECT NO. AN0293 DATE 23.03.21 SCALE@A3 1:200; 1:20



Trench 2, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 4, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 3, looking north (1m scales)



Trench 9, looking north-east (1m scales)



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e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.u

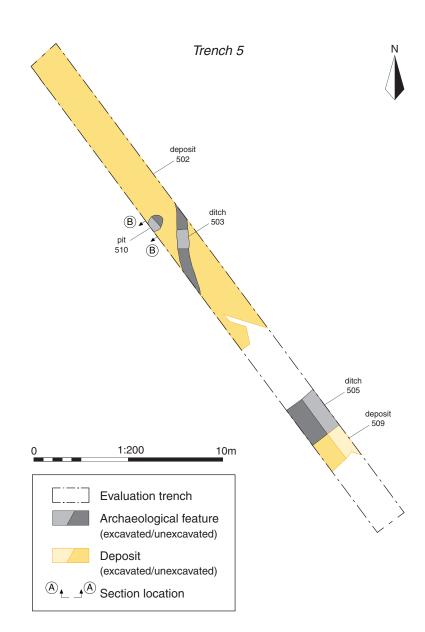
PROJECT TITLE

Land at Whitchurch Church Lane, Bristol, Somerset

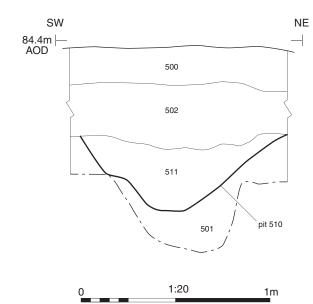
Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 9: photographs

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SCALE@A3 NA



# Section BB





Ditch 503, looking north (0.3m scale)



Ditch 505 and deposit 509, looking north-east (2m scale)



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e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.

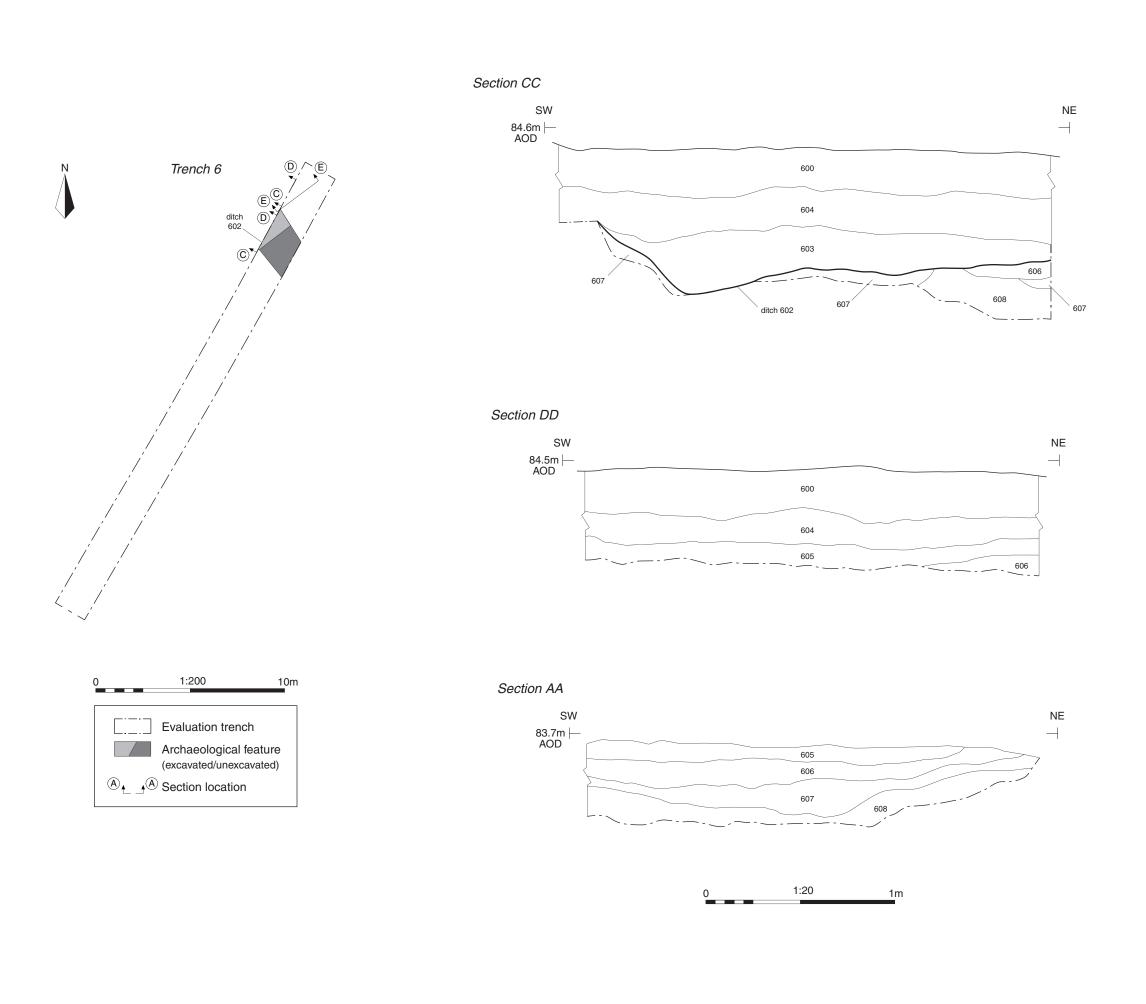
Land at Whitchurch Church Lane, Bristol, Somerset

Trench 5: plan, section and photographs

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 PROJECT NO.
 AN0293

 DATE
 23.03.21

 SCALE@A3
 1:200; 1:20





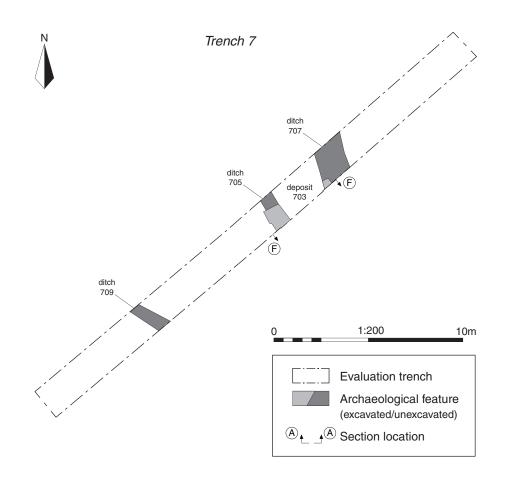
Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 573970 Cotswold Milton Keynes 01908 564660 Archaeology Suffolk 01449 900120 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.

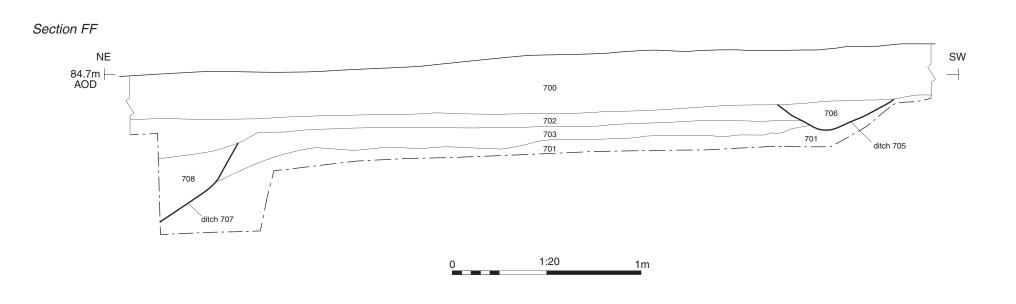
Land at Whitchurch Church Lane, Bristol, Somerset

Trench 6: plan and sections

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FIGURE NO. 7







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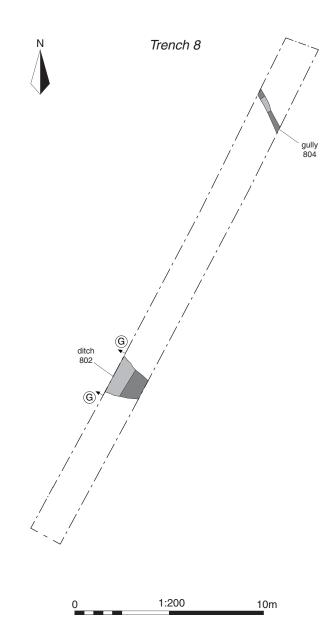
Land at Whitchurch Church Lane, Bristol, Somerset

Trench 7: plan and section

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PROJECT NO. AN0293 DATE 23.03.21 SCALE@A3 1:200; 1:20

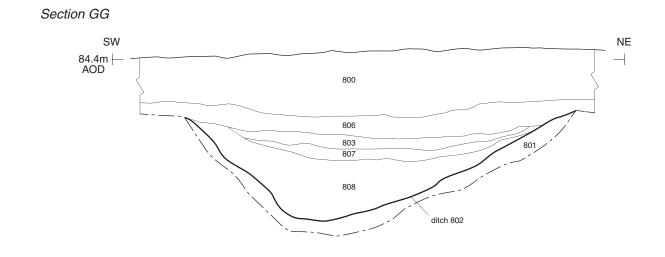
FIGURE NO. 8



Evaluation trench

A Section location

Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)





Ditch 802, looking north-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Whitchurch Church Lane, Bristol, Somerset

Trench 9: plan, section and photograph

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DATE 23.03.21
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# **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 1, Clyst Units Cofton Road Marsh Barton Exeter EX2 8QW

t: 01392 573970

# Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre Fingle Drive, Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

# Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

