

Land at Limers Lane Northam, Devon

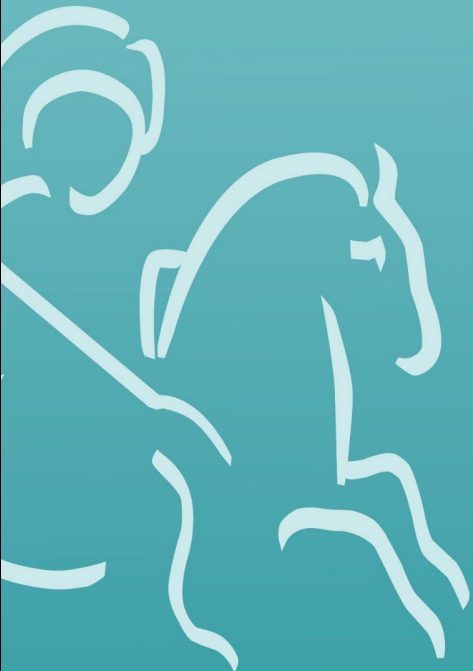
Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Strongvox Ltd

CA Project: CR1082
CA Report: CR1082_1
OASIS ID: cotswold2-506132

June 2022



Land at Limers Lane Northam, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: CR1082
CA Report: CR1082_1
OASIS ID: cotswold2-506132

Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	7 June 2022	Josh Nowlan	Derek Evans	Internal review	–	Derek Evans

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771 022	Milton Keynes Unit 8, The IO Centre Fingle Drive, Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT t. 01908 564 660	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347 630	Suffolk Unit 5, Plot 11 Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ t. 01449 900 120
--	--	--	--

e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	4
4. METHODOLOGY	4
5. RESULTS	5
6. DISCUSSION.....	5
7. CA PROJECT TEAM	5
8. REFERENCES.....	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	7
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:1000)
- Fig. 3 Photographs

SUMMARY

Project name:	Land at Limers Lane
Location:	Northam, Devon
NGR:	245330 127911
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	16–18 May 2022
Planning reference:	Torridge District Council ref: 1/0906/2015/OUTM
OASIS ID:	Cotswold2-506132
Location of Archive:	N/A
Site Code:	LIM22

In May 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Limers Lane, Northam, Devon. A total of six trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In May 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Limers Lane, Northam, Devon (centred at NGR: 245330 127911; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Strongvox Ltd.
- 1.2. Torridge District Council has granted outline planning permission for residential development of the site (planning ref: 1/0906/2015/OUTM). Conditions 8 and 9 of this planning permission require the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Stephen Reed, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCCHET). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a WSI prepared by CA (2022) and approved by Stephen Reed.
- 1.4. This evaluation was undertaken in line with *Specification for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Devon County Council 2020); *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 application site comprises an irregularly-shaped parcel of pastureland within the southern part of Northam. The site is bounded by the A39 to the south; to the north and west by properties fronting Limers Lane; and to the east by properties fronting Chircombe Lane.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Bideford Formation mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, which formed in the Carboniferous Period. No superficial deposits are recorded at the site (BGS 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. A scatter of prehistoric worked flints has been recovered in the vicinity of Orchard Hill, c. 220m south-west of the application site (Devon & Dartmoor HER ref: MDV20205).

-
- 2.2. Northam has early medieval origins and was recorded in the Domesday Book (1086). The Battle of Northam, a conflict between Anglo-Saxon and Norman forces, took place in 1069. The exact location of the battle is unknown, but it is likely to have been to the north of the present settlement.
- 2.3. The application site is likely to have been within the agricultural hinterland to the south of the early medieval and medieval settlement. Historic cartographic sources indicate that the application site remained in agricultural use in the post-medieval and modern periods.
- 2.4. Late 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps document a quarry to the north-east of the application site, on the western side of Chircombe Lane.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The 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 Torridge District Council 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 proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 6no. 30m x 1.8m trenches (Fig. 2). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. 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.
- 4.2. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in line with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.

-
- 4.4. As no archaeological features were identified during the evaluation, no archive will be prepared. The results of the fieldwork will be held by DCCHET in the form of this evaluation report and the creation of an OASIS entry (Appendix B), including an uploaded copy of this report.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. The natural geological substrate comprised reddish brown mudstone in silty clay. In Tr1 and Tr3, the natural substrate was exposed in at a depth of 0.64m–0.68m below present ground level (bpgl). It was covered by 0.3m–0.44m of silty subsoil, which was sealed in turn by 0.24m–0.34m of modern topsoil.
- 5.3. In the remainder of the trenches, the natural substrate was exposed at a depth of 0.84m–1.27m bpgl. It was sealed by 0.32m–0.6m of colluvium, comprising orange-brown silty clay. The colluvium was covered by 0.25m–0.41m of subsoil, which was sealed in turn by 0.2m–0.32m of topsoil.
- 5.4. No archaeological features or deposits were identified, and no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. The lack of archaeological features recorded by the evaluation indicates that the application site is outside of the main areas of historic activity in the area.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Josh Nowlan, assisted by William Sibley and Tom Fickling. This report was written by Josh Nowlan. The report illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2022 *Geology of Britain Viewer*

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 26
April 2022

Cotswold Archaeology 2022 *Land at Limers Lane, Northam, Devon: Written
Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Work*

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2021 *National Planning
Policy Framework*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid orangey brown. Sandy clay. Friable	0.24
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown. Clayey sand. Occasional sub-angular mudstone fragments 10%	0.44
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish brown. Mudstone in silty clay. Compact	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as (100)	0.32
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Same as (101)	0.35
2	202	Layer		Natural	Same as (102)	
2	203	Layer		Colluvium	Dark orangey brown. Silty clay. Compact	0.6
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as (100)	0.34
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as (101)	0.3
3	302	Layer		Natural	Same as (102)	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as (100)	0.2
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as (101)	0.32
4	402	Layer		Natural	Same as (102)	
4	403	Layer		Colluvium	Same as (203)	0.32
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as (100)	0.24
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as (100)	0.25
5	502	Layer		Natural	Same as (102)	
5	503	Modern		Field drain	North-west/south-east aligned stone field drain	-
5	504	Layer		Colluvium	Same as (103)	0.5
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as (100)	0.25
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Same as (101)	0.41
6	602	Layer		Natural	Same as (102)	
6	603	Layer		Colluvium	Same as (203)	0.6

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land at Limers Lane, Northam, Devon	
Short description	In May 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Limers lane, Northam, Devon. A total of six trenches were excavated. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	16–8 May 2022	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land at Limers Lane, Northam, Devon	
Study area (m ² /ha)	4.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	245330 127911	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Josh Nowlan	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	N/A	N/A
Digital	N/A	N/A
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2022 <i>Land at Limers lane, Northam, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report CR1082_1		



 Site boundary



0  1km

© Crown copyright and database rights 2022
Ordnance Survey 0100031673

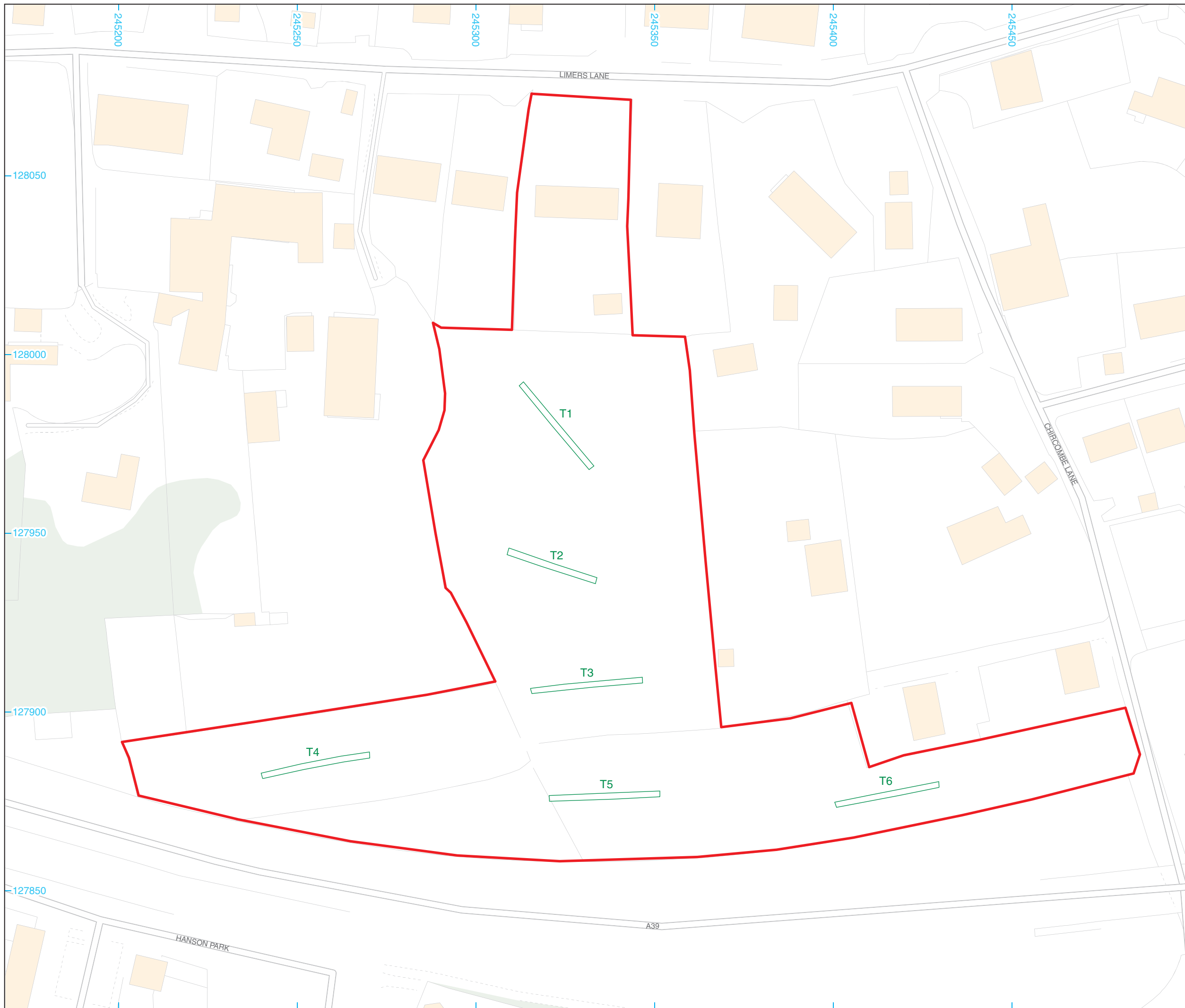


Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

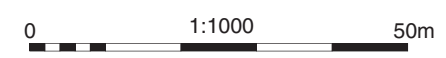
PROJECT TITLE
Land at Limers Lane, Northam, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	KL	PROJECT NO.	CR1082	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	31/05/2022	1
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- Site boundary
- Trench



© Crown copyright and database rights 2022 Ordnance Survey 0100031673


 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Land at Limers Lane, Northam, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY KL	PROJECT NO. CR1082	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DB	DATE 07/06/2022	2
APPROVED BY DE	SCALE@A3 1:1000	



The site, looking north



Trench 3, looking east (1m scales)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Limers Lane, Northam, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

<i>DRAWN BY</i>	KL	<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	CR1082	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
<i>CHECKED BY</i>	DB	<i>DATE</i>	31/05/2022	3
<i>APPROVED BY</i>	DE	<i>SCALE@A4</i>	n/a	

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Cotswold Business Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

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

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

