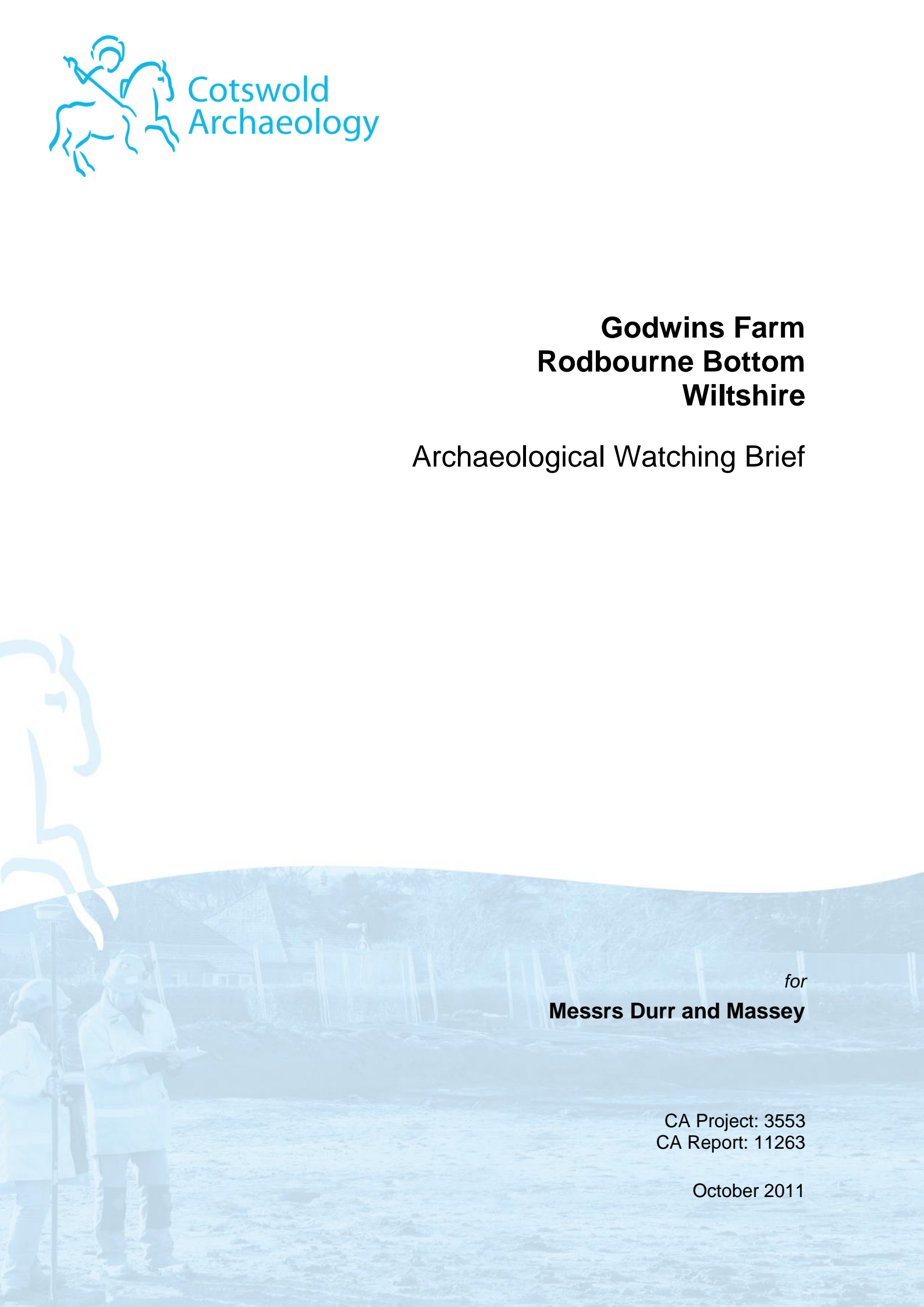


**Godwins Farm
Rodbourne Bottom
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Messrs Durr and Massey


CA Project: 3553
CA Report: 11263

October 2011

Godwins Farm
Rodbourne Bottom
Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3553
CA Report: 11263

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date	25 October 2011
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date	29 October 2011
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signed	
date	31 October 2011
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Godwins Farm
Location: Rodbourne Bottom, Wiltshire
NGR: ST 9363 8270
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 07-24 September 2011
Planning Reference: 10/02191/FUL
Location of Archive: Wiltshire Heritage Centre
Site Code: GFR 11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of an un-structurally sound cottage and rebuild of a new dwelling; extension (Godwins Cottage) and renovation of the other cottage (Godwins Farmhouse) and construction of a new garage at the site.

A single 13th-century pit and a furrow were recorded. The furrow suggests the land had previously been used for agriculture.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Messrs Durr and Massey at Godwins Farm, Rodbourne Bottom, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 9363 8270; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the demolition of an un-structurally sound cottage and rebuild of a new dwelling; extension (Godwins Cottage) and renovation of the other cottage (Godwins Farmhouse) and construction of a new garage was granted by Wiltshire Council (ref: 10/02191/FUL), conditional on a programme of archaeological work recommended by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Wiltshire County Archaeologist, advisor to Wiltshire Council (WC).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a request by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Wiltshire County Archaeologist, advisor to Wiltshire Council (WC), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by WC acting on the advice of Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger.

The site

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 0.2ha, and comprises cottages, gardens and various outbuildings. It is bounded by Pound Hill to the west and south and by fields to the north and east (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 70m AOD, on a gentle north-facing slope.
- 1.4 The solid geology is mapped as mudstone of the Kellaways Clay member of the Callovian era, formerly known as Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 2011). Jurassic Cornbrash and Holocene Alluvium are mapped slightly to the north in the stream valley. The natural deposits revealed throughout the foundation trenches comprised clay with fractured and weathered small flints, and may have been Head of the Pleistocene period.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The Wiltshire SMR lists several pottery findspots within the parish, including the discovery of Romano-British pottery approximately 370m to the north-east of the development area (SMR Ref: ST98SW304) and in a field just to the west of the site (SMR Ref: ST98SW305). Romano-British pottery and a clay spindle weight were also identified in a brick pit over 800m to the north-west (SMR Ref: ST98SW302). Medieval terraces and other earthworks, in addition to approximately 30 medieval pottery sherds, were recorded south-east of Bottom Farm (SMR Ref: ST98SW460). Further medieval earthworks are recorded west of Cleeve House, c. 800m to the south-west of the site (SMR Ref: ST98SW461). Grove Farm, c. 650m to the east of the site, is a farmstead with medieval origins (SMR Ref: ST98SW457).
- 1.6 Geophysical survey and evaluation at Godwin's Meadow, just to the west of the site, identified probable settlement from the 10th century onwards. Numerous drainage channels and ditches were identified along with several walls and structures, including a possible grain dryer. The geophysical survey also suggested the presence of a large building (Staff 2011).

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks including the excavation of foundations and service trenches. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were mechanically removed under archaeological supervision.
- 1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 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 Wiltshire Heritage Centre (WHC) 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 (FIGS 2-4)

- 2.1 The results of the archaeological watching brief are, for ease, presented by the two plots that were developed at the site.

Plot 1

- 2.2 Excavations for the foundation trenches for the extension to plot 1 typically measured 0.9m in width and 1m in depth (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).
- 2.3 The earliest deposit encountered was natural clay substrate 201 which was revealed 0.25m below present ground level (bpgl). It was cut by pit 202, which contained fill 203 from which 25 sherds of 13th-century pottery were retrieved. The pit was only partially observed within the foundation trench and was immediately sealed by reworked topsoil 200.
- 2.4 Adjacent to the foundation trenches, an area measuring approximately 12m by 4m was mechanically reduced. The earliest deposit encountered was natural clay substrate 102, revealed at 0.77m bpgl. It was sealed by subsoil 101 which was overlain by topsoil 100.

Plot 2

- 2.5 Excavations for the foundation trenches of the new build in plot 2 typically measured 0.9m in width and 1m in depth (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).
- 2.6 The earliest deposit encountered was natural clay substrate 302 approximately 0.3m bpgl. It was cut by furrow 303, aligned northwest to southeast, which contained fill 304 from which 5 sherds of 12th- 13th- century pottery were retrieved. The furrow was immediately sealed by topsoil 301, which itself had been reworked and disturbed during the removal of the previous house creating demolition layer 305.

The Finds

- 2.7 The finds assemblage recovered during the watching brief is summarised in Appendix B. The pottery assemblage consisted of 42 sherds of pottery weighing 586g. The pottery was recovered from two stratified deposits and could be dated to

the medieval period. The level of preservation was good with the majority of sherds displaying negligible levels of abrasion.

Medieval pottery

- 2.8 The pottery retrieved from fill 203 within pit 202 contained a number of vessel sherds including large joining sherds from at least two wheel-thrown jars of Minety ware and one of Cotswolds oolitic limestone-tempered ware and are dated to the 13th century. The Minety ware vessels had thickened everted rims with small traces of pale green glaze to both the rims and exterior body. One vessel was also decorated with vertically combed wavy lines to the shoulder of the jar. The jar in Cotswolds oolitic limestone-tempered ware was plain with a vertical thickened rim. All three vessels were sooted to some degree with the jar in Cotswold oolitic limestone tempered ware substantially so. Such evidence is indicative that all three jars were used as cooking-pots and the vessels were dated to the 13th century.
- 2.9 The remaining pottery assemblage was recovered from furrow fill 304 and also contained body sherds of Minety ware and Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware. A further sherd was unidentified but was of a sandy fabric consistent with medieval production. In the absence of diagnostic form sherds, a broad 12th to 14th century date is suggested for this material. Several sherds also exhibited heavy sooting suggesting they also originated from cooking-pots.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified little archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. A single medieval pit 202 dated to the 13th century, was observed possibly in relation to the settlement from the 10th century onwards directly to the west. The furrow 303, most likely explains the absence of archaeological deposits as this suggests the land was previously of agricultural use during the medieval period and later.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Wright and Sian Reynish. The report was written by Jamie Wright and Daniel Sausins. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Jamie Wright, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 30 August 2011

Staff, C (2011) *Malmesbury Memories David Forward*
<http://davidforward.net/menus/history/godwins-meadow-rodbourne-bottom/>
Accessed 30 August 2011



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Plot 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey brown clay silt.			0.42m	
101	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellowish/ grey brown silt clay.			0.35m	
102	Layer	Natural substrate. Mid- light yellowish brown silt clay with light blue mottling.				
200	Layer	Reworked topsoil.			0.25m	
201	Layer	Natural substrate. Mid- light yellowish brown silt clay with light blue mottling.				
202	Cut	Pit			0.69m	
203	Fill	Fill of 202			0.69m	

Plot 2

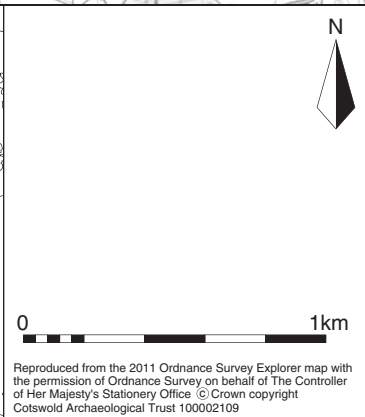
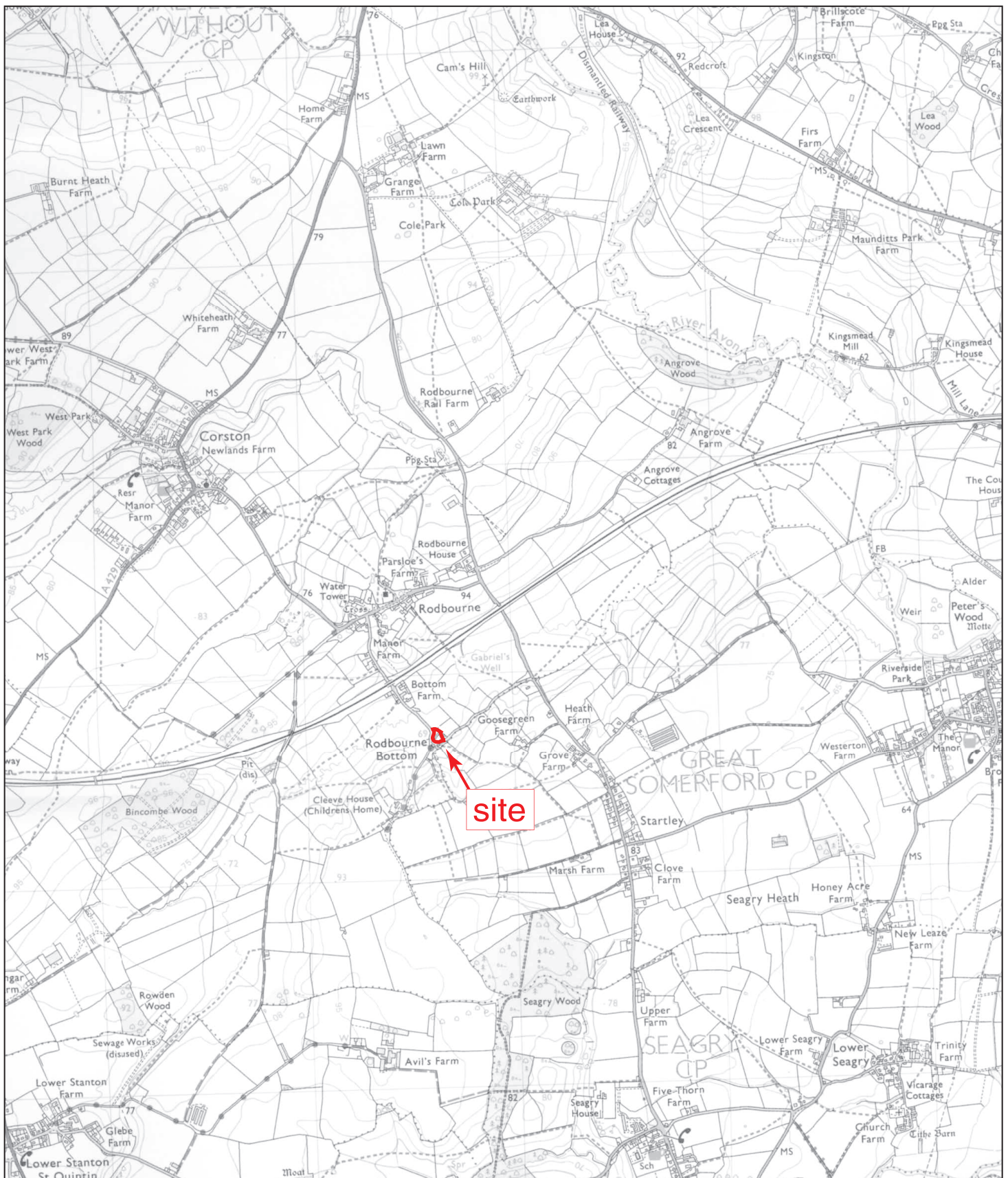
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
301	Layer	Topsoil. Grey clay			0.30m	
302	Layer	Natural substrate. Yellow brown sandy silt				
303	Cut	North west southeast aligned furrow				
304	Fill	Fill of 304				
305	Layer	Rubble demolition deposit				

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
203	Medieval pottery: Minety ware, Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware Bone: animal	37 1	563 1	C13
304	Medieval pottery: Minety ware, Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware, miscellaneous sandy ware	5	23	C12-C14

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Godwins Farm, Rodbourne Bottom, Wiltshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of an un-structurally sound cottage and rebuild of a new dwelling; extension (Godwins Cottage) and renovation of the other cottage (Godwins Farmhouse) and construction of a new garage at the site.</p> <p>A single 13th-century pit and a furrow were recorded. The furrow suggests the land had previously been used for agriculture.</p>	
Project dates	07- 21 September 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Godwins Farm, Rodbourne Bottom, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	c. 0.2ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 9363 8270	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Jamie Wright, Sian Reynish	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Centre	Ceramics
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Centre	Context sheets, Registers
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Centre	Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Godwins Farm, Rodbourne Bottom, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 11263		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Godwin's Farm, Rodbourne Bottom
 Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 3553	DATE 11-11-2011	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY PJM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1

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ST

- site
- area of observed groundworks
- archaeological feature
- furrow
- modern
- natural



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PROJECT TITLE
 Godwin's Farm, Rodbourne Bottom
 Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan, showing area of
 observed groundworks

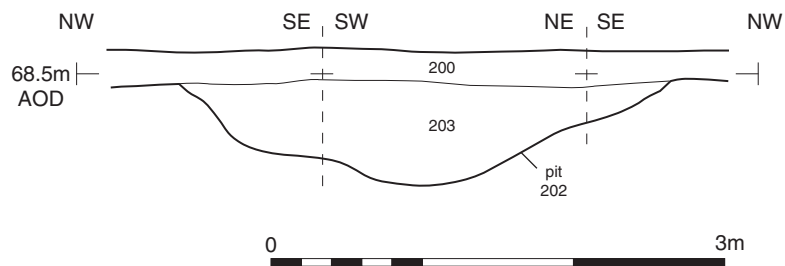


PROJECT NO.	3553	DATE	11-11-2011	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:500	



View across site before excavation of foundations

Pit 202, Section



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PROJECT TITLE

Godwin's Farm, Rodbourne Bottom
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Section and photograph

PROJECT NO. 3553 DATE 14-11-2011
DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:50

FIGURE NO.

3



View across site during excavation of foundations

PROJECT TITLE

Godwin's Farm, Rodbourne Bottom
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Section and photograph