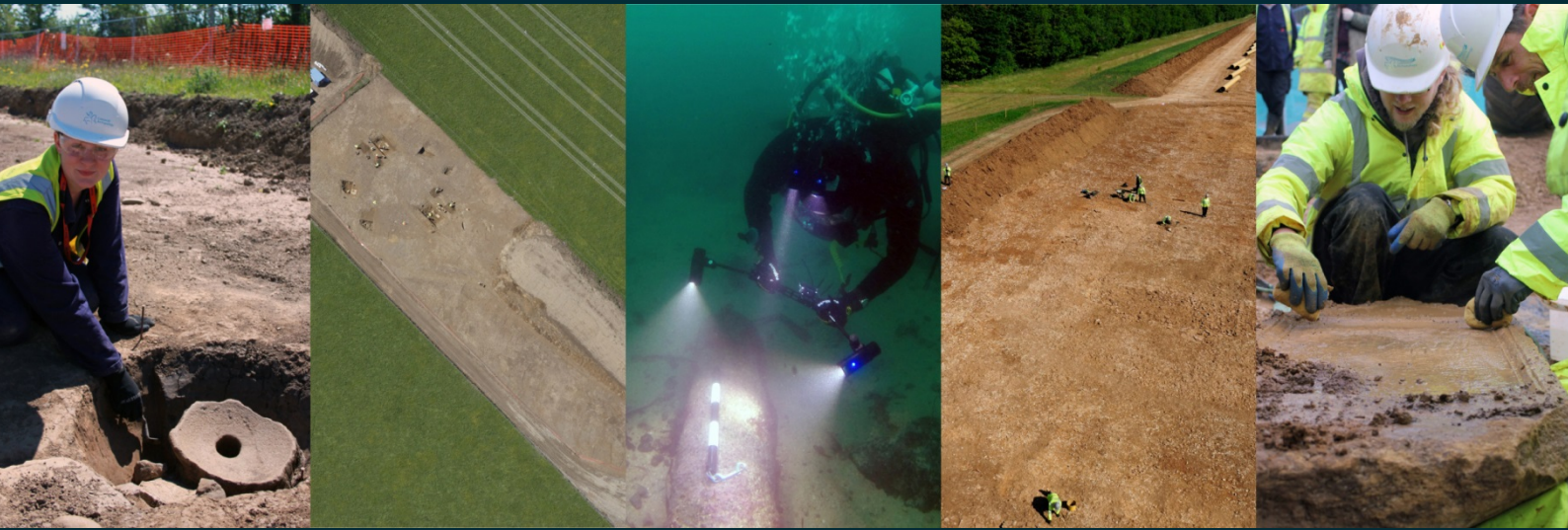


# Land at Parklands Farm Whitminster Gloucestershire

*Archaeological Excavation*



for  
Newbridge Construction Ltd

CA Project: 5490  
CA Report: 16133

May 2016



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## Archaeological Excavation

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	8 May 2016	Peter Busby	Cliff Bateman	Internal review		Cliff Bateman

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land at Parklands Farm
<b>Location:</b>	Whitminster, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SO 7742 0806
<b>Type:</b>	Excavation
<b>Date:</b>	11 January to 5 February 2016
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	Stroud District Council S.14/0716/OUT
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with The Museum in the Park, Stroud
<b>Site Code:</b>	PARK 16

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January and February 2016 on land at Parklands Farm, Whitminster, Gloucestershire. The excavation area was located in the central-eastern extent of the development area, targeted upon features identified during a preceding archaeological evaluation.

The excavation revealed an evolving agricultural landscape consisting of the undated ditches and pits, the latter largely interpreted as quarry scoops, which were subsequently superseded by two phases of ridge and furrow cultivation of presumed medieval and/or post-medieval date.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January and February 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation, at the request of Newbridge Construction Ltd, on land at Parklands Farm, Whitminster, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 7742 0806; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Planning permission (Planning ref: S.14/0716/OUT) for residential development was granted by Stroud District Council (SDC) conditional (no. 4) on a programme of archaeological work (Fig. 1). The archaeological condition was recommended by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), informed by the results of preceding archaeological surveys (see Section 2 below).
- 1.3 The archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) that was approved by SDC acting on the advice of Mr Parry. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation* (ClfA 2014); the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Charles Parry.

### ***The site***

- 1.4 The development area as a whole occupies three fields totalling 1.3ha in extent, within which the area subject to archaeological excavation was approximately 0.5ha. The site is located close to the centre of the village of Whitminster, and is bound to the north-east by housing fronting School Road, and to the south-east by a garden centre. To the north-west lie the buildings of Parklands Farm itself, and to the south-west are agricultural fields.
- 1.5 The site lies on broadly level ground at a height of 30m, immediately above the floodplain of the River Frome. The underlying geology of the area primarily comprises Blue Lias formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation mud, silt, sand and gravel of Jurassic origin. Superficial deposits of sand and gravel of Quaternary origin are recorded just to the east of the site (BGS 2014). The natural geology encountered during the current works comprised pockets of sands and gravels within grey-blue clays, with more extensive and thicker gravels identified in the

southern extent of the excavated area.

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The archaeological potential of the site has previously been presented in three preceding reports; an archaeological desk-based assessment (CA 2013), geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2014), and trial trenching evaluation (CA 2014). It is not intended to fully reprise these reports here, but the following is a summary of their conclusions.
- 2.2 The assessment identified no designated or non-designated heritage assets within the site itself excepting ridge-and furrow earthworks associated with medieval or early post-medieval agricultural exploitation of the site. Buried archaeological features associated with medieval and early post-medieval settlement have been uncovered within 100m of the site to the east and north-east. Cartographic evidence from the 1838 Wheatenhurst/Whitminster Tithe map through to late 20th-century Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping records the site as orchard (CA 2013).
- 2.3 The geophysical survey identified a number of discrete positive responses suggestive of former pit-like features, although the possibility that they are associated with the removal of trees within the former orchard could not be overlooked. In addition, some linear anomalies were also revealed and although they may relate to former ditch-like features, they also could not be confidently interpreted (AS 2014).
- 2.4 The evaluation suggested the site had been in arable cultivation during the medieval period, possibly as early as the 12th to 13th centuries (CA 2014). A ditch or furrow, containing three sherds of pottery from this date, and a number of broadly similar features, were suggestive of a field system pre-dating the extant ridge and furrow. It also identified evidence for localised gravel quarrying and use of the site as an orchard in later periods.

## **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:
- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered

- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains
- 

### 3.2 The specific aims of the work was to:

- Ensure the adequate recording of any buried archaeological remains that may be exposed within the current defined limits of the excavation area prior to their removal by development
- Determine whether archaeological features continue beyond the excavation area and, if so, define the area of archaeological activity within the Site.
- Produce a plan of all archaeological features exposed within the excavation area
- Investigate and record exposed archaeological features/deposits in order to clarify their date, character, and significance and to provide a clear understanding of their chronology
- Ensure that any artefactual/environmental evidence is recorded, assessed and – if appropriate – analysed and published to an acceptable standard
- Make available the results of the investigations

## 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the approved WSI (CA 2015). The location of the excavation area was agreed with Charles Parry (GCC), and was informed by the results of the preceding archaeological evaluation (CA 2014). The excavation area was set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual*. It was 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*. A previously unknown north/south orientated buried electric cable was identified and a 3m wide exclusion zone established either side of it (see Figs 2 and 3 for location and extent).



- 4.2 Initially works comprised the mechanical removal of non-archaeologically significant soils using a toothless ditching bucket. The generated spoil was monitored in order to recover artefacts. Hand-cleaning of the stripped surface, to better define any identified archaeological deposits/features, was undertaken where necessary. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision and ceased when the first archaeological horizon or the natural substrate was revealed.
- 4.3 Once the machining was completed, the exposed archaeological features were recorded in plan using Leica GPS and investigated by hand to determine their date and function. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*. Both the evaluation and subsequent excavation were carried out during periods of extremely wet weather, which resulted in a waterlogged and often flooded site.
- 4.4 Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential but no features were considered to have potential to characterise the earlier phases of activity and no samples were taken
- 4.5 All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation*.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 3-8)

- 5.1 The archaeological excavation at Parklands Farm was targeted on the central/eastern portion of the site where medieval features were identified during the preceding evaluation (CA 2014). The current excavation further revealed evidence for an evolving agricultural landscape consisting of ditches and pits, as well as two distinct phases of ridge and furrow cultivation. The results are discussed in detail below.
- 5.2 Due to the paucity of recovered finds, the identified features have been assigned to phases, and not datable periods, on the basis of their spatial and/or stratigraphic relationships. The finds assemblage recovered during the current excavation was limited to one residual prehistoric worked flint, two sherds of medieval pottery (14g), and one fragment of modern glass (2g). Further modern finds were noted but were not retained.

5.3 The spatial and stratigraphic analysis of the features has indicated five distinguishable phases of activity:

- Phase 0 Geology
- Phase 1 Prehistoric
- Phase 2 Early pits and ditches
- Phase 3 North/south orientated ditches and furrows
- Phase 4 North-west/south-east orientated ditches, pits and furrows
- Phase 5 Modern

#### ***Phase 0 Geology***

5.4 The natural geology encountered comprised pockets of sands and gravels within grey-blue clays; with more extensive and thicker gravels identified in the southern extent of the excavated area. The natural substrate was cut by archaeological features, including the furrows, and sealed by a c. 0.5m thick layer of brown clay silt subsoil/relict plough soil 47.

#### ***Phase 1 Prehistoric***

5.5 No datable prehistoric features were identified during either the current or the preceding archaeological works at the site. However, activity from this period is hinted at by the recovery of a residual worked flint blade, typical of the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods, from fill 11046 of ditch **29** close to the northern limit of the site (Fig. 3).

#### ***Phase 2 Early pits and ditches (Figs. 3 and 4)***

5.6 All features assigned to this phase remained artefactually undated, were sealed below relict plough soil **47**, and were cut by features relating to Phase 4 activity.

#### ***Pits***

5.7 In the southern and eastern-most extent of the excavated area nine undated pits were identified, many of which were subsequently cut by features associated with later phases of activity (Fig. 3, features **5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 15, 18, 22** and **45**; Fig. 4, section BB; and Fig. 5, section CC). All were irregular in plan with steep sides and concave base, ranging in size from 1m in length and 0.9m in width (pit **12**) to 5.8m long by 4.1m wide (pit **22**). Their depth ranged from 0.1m deep (pit **12**) to 0.5m in the case of pit **5**. All contained similar grey-brown silty clay fills.

- 5.8 Each of these pits was located within the natural gravels and their irregular plan often mirrored the boundary between the gravel and surrounding natural clays. The pits were typically excavated through the gravels exposing the underlying natural clays, or a hard iron paned layer of gravel, and are interpreted as small, localised quarry pits or scoops exploiting accessible pockets of natural gravel.

*Early boundaries and ditches*

- 5.9 Five undated ditches were identified that did not easily relate to the later phases of activity (Fig. 3, features **4**, **8**, **11**, **13** and **16**). Ditch **16** emerged from the southern baulk and curved slightly to the east before terminating after c. 12m. It consisted of a 'V' shaped ditch, 11015, with a steep sloping northern side and a moderately sloping southern side (Fig 4; section AA and photograph). It was 1.5m wide, 0.72m deep, and contained two fills, 11016 and 11017, prior to being recut as ditch 11018. The later ditch was 1.72m wide, 0.32m deep and contained a single fill.
- 5.10 Ditch **8** ran for some 40m in the eastern extent of the site, initially aligned north-east/south-west before turning northwards immediately beyond the eastern edge of preceding evaluation Trench 4 (Fig. 3). In Trench 4 it consisted of two parallel ditches, 4004 and 4006, some 2.6m apart (Fig. 4; section BB and photograph). Their profiles were typical of the boundary, with moderately sloping sides and a slightly rounded base, and measuring c. 1.1m wide by 0.4m deep. Both features contained a single silty clay fill. The two ditches merged, although the relationship between them could not be established.
- 5.11 Ditch **4** was 'L' shaped and was located approximately 3.5m east of, and in part broadly parallel to, ditch **8** (Fig. 3 and Fig 5; section CC and photograph). It comprised a single, steep sided ditch, approximately 1m wide and up to 0.19m deep, containing a single brown fill. The current gap in the ditch alignment appeared to result from truncation associated with later ploughing rather than a deliberate entrance.
- 5.12 Two broadly parallel north-east/south-west ditches, **11** and **13**, possibly relate to this phase of activity (Fig. 3). It was not possible to identify ditch **13** to the west of the electricity exclusion zone and ditch **11** had a tentative terminus just beyond the exclusion zone. Both ditches had moderately sloping sides and a flat but slightly irregular base, and each contained a single fill (Fig. 6; section DD and photograph).

### **Phase 3 North/south orientated ditches and furrows (Figs 3 and 5)**

- 5.13 This phase of activity comprised north/south orientated furrows, three ditches and 17 pits (Fig. 3). These features have no physical relationship with the activity assigned to the preceding phases, but are cut by features associated with later, Phase 4, activity. It therefore remains undetermined whether these features represent a continuation of the Phase 2 activity.
- 5.14 Shallow east/west orientated ditch **19** ran 16m from the western limit of the excavation before grading out rather than terminating. It had a 'V' shaped profile with moderately sloping sides and a single silty clay fill (Fig. 3 and Fig. 8; section FF and photograph). It is possible that heavily plough damaged ditch **46**, or ditch **20**, may represent its eastern continuation. Three sherds of 12th-13th century pottery were recovered from ditch **46** during the preceding evaluation (CA 2014; cut 5006, fill 5005), although as the ditch was truncated by a later furrow it remains undetermined whether the finds originate from the ditch or the furrow.
- 5.15 Two north/south orientated ditches, **14** and **29**, had similar steep sided, flat bottomed profiles, typically measuring 0.65m in width and 0.23m in depth, with similar grey brown clay fills (Fig. 3 and Fig. 7; section EE and photograph). A single sherd of Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware, dating to the 11th to 13th century, was recovered from the fill of ditch **29** (cut 11051, fill 11050), along with a residual worked flint. Although the ditches have no physical relationship with the Phase 3 furrows, they do share a common alignment and were subsequently cut by the later activity suggesting they may be broadly contemporary.
- 5.16 Scattered throughout the eastern half of the site were 13 undated pits (Fig 3, pits **17**, **23**, **24**, **25**, **26**, **27**, **31**, **32**, **33**, **34**, **35**, **36** and **39**). These features were similar in form and fill to the quarry pits assigned to Phase 2, but were cut by later Phase 4 features. In addition there were four, small undated pits that were also sealed below relict plough soil **46** (Fig 3, Pits **10**, **30**, **37** and **38**).
- 5.17 North/south orientated furrows were identified throughout the excavation area sharing a common alignment with ditches **14** and **29** (Fig. 3).

### **Phase 4 North-west/south-east orientated ditches, pits and furrows (Fig. 3)**

- 5.18 During this phase the ridge and furrow cultivation was re-aligned to a predominately north-west/south-east alignment, with an associated north-east/south-west orientated headland visible along the western extent of the excavation area. These furrows and the headland survived as earthworks until the current development.

### **Phase 5 Modern (Fig 3)**

- 5.19 Two drainage ditches, **38** and **39**, respected the alignment of the later, Phase 4, furrows and most probably represent the deliberate widening and deepening of existing furrows. Both ditches had clearly been re-cut a number of times, but contained 19th and 20th century pottery and glass (not retained).
- 5.20 By the compilation of the 1838 Wheatenhurst/Whitminster Tithe map the current site was recorded as an orchard, remains of which survived until the current development (see Section 2 above). A number of features indicative of modern farming practices, including tree throw pits, animal burials, and an area of heat affected furrow fill, **28**, suggestive of a bonfire were identified.
- 5.21 Quarry pit **34** was located in the north of the excavated area and clearly cut the fills of drainage ditch **38**. It was irregular in plan with steep sides and measured 11.25m in length, 8.7m in width and at least 0.5m in depth. It contained a single fill, containing 19th and 20th century pottery and glass (not retained).

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Finds recovered are listed in the table below. Details are to be found in Appendix B.

<b>Type</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
Pottery	Medieval	2	14
Worked flint	Prehistoric	1	8
Modern glass	Modern glass	1	2

## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Biological evidence recovered is listed in the table below. Details are to be found in Appendix C.

Type	Category	Count	Weight
Animal bone	Fragments	9	178

## 8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The phasing of the earliest archaeological activity identified during the current excavation and the preceding evaluation (CA 2014) has been hampered by the truncation resulting from the subsequent ridge and furrow cultivation (Phases 3 and 4), and also by the paucity of the finds assemblage. The stratified finds recovered during the current works comprised a single sherd of medieval pottery from boundary ditch **29** (fill 11050) and a residual prehistoric worked flint blade from the same boundary ditch. The remaining eight contexts from which finds were recovered were either topsoil or furrow fills.

8.2 No features that can be securely dated to the prehistoric period were identified during the current or preceding works, although the recovery of the residual flint blade from ditch **29**, typical of the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods, does hint at Early prehistoric activity in the area. It is also noteworthy that no later prehistoric or Roman activity was identified, although the possibility that at least some of the pits and ditches assigned to Phase 2 may be of this date cannot be overlooked.

8.3 The earliest features identified are the undated Phase 2 pits in the eastern extent of the excavation area. These pits, and possibly some of the pits attributed to Phase 3, are interpreted as being indicative of the small scale exploitation of pockets of gravel in the natural clays. Many of these pits were subsequently cut by ditches that were orientated on a different axis to, and often truncated by, the subsequent phases of ridge and furrow. These ditches hint at a complex of enclosures/field boundaries, including possible trackways formed by ditches **4** and **8** and ditches **11** and **13** respectively. The lack of artefactual material recovered from these ditches limits our ability to accurately date them, save to note that they pre-date the medieval ridge and furrow.

- 8.4 The earliest of the ridge and furrow cultivation (Phase 3) was aligned north/south. Two similarly orientated ditches, **14** and **29**, are most probably associated with this phase of activity although the lack of stratigraphic relationships between the furrows and ditches makes it impossible to determine the actual sequence of development. A sherd Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware dating to the 11th to 13th century that was retrieved from the fill of boundary ditch **29** suggests an early medieval date for this phase of activity. Three sherds of 12th to 13th-century pottery were recovered during the preceding evaluation from the fill ditch **46**, a possible eastern continuation of east/west aligned ditch **19**.
- 8.5 The pitting attributed to Phase 3 may represent a continuation of the Phase 2 activity into the medieval period, although it is equally possible that some, or all, of these features may relate to earlier phases of activity.
- 8.6 The ridge and furrow ploughing was re-orientated along a north-west/south-east alignment, with an associated north-east/south-west headland developing along the western limit of the current excavations. This phase of activity, Phase 4, survived as extant earthworks until the current works. The two large drainage ditches, **38** and **39**, contained modern artefacts but both respected the alignment of the Phase 4, furrows. It is probable that they represent the deliberate deepening and widening of pre-existing furrows presumably to improve drainage and/or form boundaries within the orchard depicted on cartographic sources from the 1838 Wheatenhurst/Whitminster Tithe map onwards.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby assisted by Sara Jane-Boughton, Jess Stevens and Juan Moreno. The report was written by Peter Busby. The finds reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and the faunal remains report by Andy Clarke. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The fieldwork and post-excavation were managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.



## 10. STORAGE AND CURATION

- 10.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices in Kemble whilst post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project, and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery, which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project. 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.

## 11. REFERENCES

- AS (Archaeological Surveys) 2014 Parklands Farm, Whitminster, Gloucestershire: Magnetometer Survey Report
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 Geology of Britain Viewer [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html)  
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- CA 2014 *Land at Parklands Farm, Whitminster, Gloucestershire; Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Typescript report **14063**
- CA 2015 *Land at Parklands Farm, Whitminster, Gloucestershire; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation*
- Vince, A. G. *Guide to the Pottery of Gloucester*. Unpublished type fabric series.



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
10001	Layer		Black silt clay	Topsoil 48	
10002	Layer		Brown clay silt with 10% gravel	Relict plough soil 47	
10003	Layer		Mixed light yellow and dark orange brown silt clays/sandy gravels and grey blue clays	Natural Substrate	
10004	Fill	10005	Same as 10002	Furrow 40	
10005	Cut		NW/SE orientated linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and concave base.	Furrow 40	
10006	Fill	10007	Yellowish grey silt clay with 15% gravel	Posthole 1	
10007	Cut		Oval in plan with almost vertical sides and concave base	Posthole 1	
10008	Fill	10009	Brown grey silt clay with 1% gravel	Posthole 2	
10009	Cut		Oval in plan with gradual sloping sides and slightly concave base	Posthole 2	
10010	Fill	10011	Grey brown silt clay with 10% gravel	Pit/ditch 3	
10011	Cut		NW/SE orientated linear in plan with steep sides and concave to almost flat base	Pit/ditch 3	
10012	Fill	10013	Brown grey clay silt with 1% gravel	Ditch 4	
10013	Cut		N/S orientated linear in plan with steep sided and concave base	Ditch 4	
10014	Fill	10016	Upper fill, grey brown clay with 5% gravel	Quarry pit 5	
10015	Fill	10016	Lower fill, grey brown clay with 10% gravel	Quarry pit 5	
10016	Cut		Oval in plan with steep to almost vertical sides and concave base	Quarry pit 5	
10017	Fill	10018	Brown clay silt with 10% gravel	Quarry pit 6	
10018	Cut		Oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base	Quarry pit 6	
10019	Fill	10020	Brown silty clay with 5% gravel	Ditch 4	
10020	Cut		N/S orientated linear in plan with steep sides and concave base	Ditch 4	
10021	Fill	10022	Brown clay silt	Ditch 8	
10022	Cut		N/S orientated linear in plan with vertical to moderate sides and concave base	Ditch 8	
10023	Fill	10024	Light brown orange silty sand with 15% gravel	Quarry pit 9	
10024	Cut		Irregular oval in plan with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	Quarry pit 9	
10025	Fill	10026	Grey silt with 10% gravel	Pit 10	
10026	Cut		Circular in plan with moderate sloping sides and concave base	Pit 10	
10027	Fill	10028	Dark grey silty clay with 5% gravel	Ditch 11	
10028	Cut		W/E orientated linear in plan S side is steep/vertical with a more moderately sloping N side and an irregular base.	Ditch 11	
10029	Fill	10030	Yellow brown clay	Ditch 8	
10030	Cut		SE/NW orientated linear in plan with gentle sloping sides and a rounded/concave base	Ditch 8	
10031	Fill	10032	Dark grey silt	Pit 37	
10032	Cut		N/S orientated oval pit with moderate to irregular sloping sides and irregular to concave base.	Pit 37	
10033	Fill	10034	Dark grey silt with 10% gravel	Furrow 41	
10034	Cut		NE/SW linear in plan with shallow sloping sides and concave base	Furrow 41	
10035	Fill	10036	Grey silt	Ditch 13	
10036	Cut		NE/SW orientated linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and concave base	Ditch 13	
10037	Fill	10038	Dark grey silt	Quarry pit 12	
10038	Cut		Oval in plan with gently sloping and very irregular base	Quarry pit 12	
11001	Layer		Same as 10001	Topsoil 48	

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
11002	Layer		Same as 10002	Relict plough soil 47	
11003	Layer		Same as 10002	Natural Substrate	
11004	Cut		NW/SE orientated linear in plan with gently sloping sides and flat to concave base	Furrow 40	
11005	Fill	11004	Only fill grey brown sand clay with 15% gravel	Furrow 40	
11006	Cut		N/S orientated linear in plan with moderate sloping sides and slightly concave base	Ditch 14	
11007	Fill	11006	Lower fill, light grey blue silt clay	Ditch 14	
11008	Fill	11006	Upper fill, grey brown sand clay with 10% gravel	Boundary ditch 14	
11009	Cut		Oval in plan with moderate sloping sides and concave to irregular base	Quarry pit 15	
11010	fill	11009	Orange brown grey silty clay with 1% gravel	Quarry pit 15	
11011	Cut		N/S orientated linear in plan with moderately sloping , concave to irregular base	Ditch 16	
11012	Fill	11011	Grey brown silty clay with 1% gravel	Ditch 16	
11013	Fill	11014	Brown clay silt with 10% gravel	Quarry pit 17	
11014	Cut		Irregular cut in plan with round corners, sharp and vertical to shallow sloping sides and irregular base	Quarry pit 17	
11015	Cut		NE/SW orientated curving linear with steep sloping side and concave base	Ditch 16	
11016	Fill	11015	Lower fill, brown grey silty clay with 5% gravel	Ditch 16	
11017	Fill	11015	Upper fill, yellow grey silty clay with 10% gravel	Ditch 16	
11018	Cut		NE/SW orientated curving linear gentle slope and a concave base	Ditch 16	
11019	Fill	11018	Light/mid grey brown silty clay with 1% gravel	Ditch 16	
11020	Cut		Oval in plan with steep sloping sides and a concave base	Pit 18	
11021	Fill	11020	Greyish brown silty clay with 1% gravel	Pit 18	
11022	Void		Void	Void	
11023	Fill	11024	Red brown silt clay with 5% gravel	Ditch 19	
11024	Cut		NW/SE orientated linear in plan with sharp to moderately sloping sides and a pointed base	Ditch 19	
11025	cut		E/W orientated curving linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base	Ditch 16	
11026	Fill	11025	Light/mid grey brown silty clay with 1% gravel	Ditch 16	
11027	cut		E/W orientated curving linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base	Ditch 16	
11028	Fill	11027	Greyish brown silty clay with 1% gravel	Ditch 16	
11029	Cut		E/W orientated linear in plan with steep sloping sides and a concave to flat base.	Ditch 20	
11030	Fill	11039	Grey brown silty clay with 1% gravel	Ditch 20	
11031	Cut		NE/SW orientated linear, gentle slope concave base	Ditch 8	
11032	Fill	11031	Brown grey silty clay with 1% gravel	Ditch 8	
11033	Cut		Circular in plan with moderate slope/steep steeping sides and an uneven concave base	Pit 21	
11034	Fill	11033	Brown grey silt clay with 1% gravel	Pit 21	
11035	Cut		E/W orientated oval cut in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base	Pit 21	
11036	Fill	11035	Brown grey silt clay with 1% gravel	Pit 21	
11037	Fill	11038	Very dark brown silt clay	Quarry pit 25	

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
11038	Cut		Irregular shape in plan with round corners and vertical to shallow sloping sides and irregular base	Quarry pit 25	
11039	Fill	11040	As 11037 and 11041	Quarry pit 26	
11040	Cut		As 11038 and 11042	Quarry pit 26	
11041	Fill	11042	As 11037 and 11039	Quarry pit 27	
11042	Cut		As 11038 and 11040	Quarry pit 27	
11043	Layer		Orange/black brown heat affected clay silt	Base of a bonfire 28	
11044	Fill	11045	As 10002	Furrow 40	
11045	Cut		NE/SE orientated linear in plan with shallow sloping sides and irregular base.	Furrow 40	
11046	Fill	11047	Brown silt clay with 5% gravel	Ditch 29	Prehistoric
11047	Cut		N/S orientated linear ditch moderate slope, concave base	Ditch 29	
11048	Fill	11049	Dark brown clay silt with 5 % gravel	Furrow 40	
11049	Cut		N/S orientated linear in plan with shallow sides an rounded concave base	Furrow 40	
11050	Fill	11051	Grey brown silt clay with 5% gravel	Pit 30	C11-C13
11051	Cut		N/S orientated linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a flat to slightly irregular base	Pit 30	
11052	Fill	11053	Dark grey brown silt clay with 10% gravel	Ditch 29	
11053	Cut		Oval in plan with moderately sloping sides and flat base	Ditch 29	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 7	
			Not excavated, cut by ditch 8	Quarry pit 22	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 23	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 24	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 25	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 26	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 27	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 31	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 32	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 33	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 34	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 35	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 36	
			Not excavated	Quarry pit 38	
			Not excavated	Ditch 38	
			Not excavated	Ditch 39	
			Not excavated	Animal Burial 42	
			Not excavated	Animal Burial 43	
			Not excavated	Animal Burial 44	

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Context Type</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Context Description</b>	<b>Feature Label</b>	<b>Spot Date</b>
			Excavated in evaluation	Quarry pit 45	
			Excavated in evaluation	Ditch 46	
			Excavated in evaluation	Quarry pit 49	

## APPENDIX B: FINDS

by Jacky Sommerville

Artefactual material from excavation was hand-recovered from four deposits (ditch and furrow fills). The recovered material dates to the prehistoric, medieval and modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Pottery fabric codes are equated to the Gloucester pottery type series as defined by Vince (unpublished).

### *Pottery: medieval*

Pottery of this date totals two unfeatured bodysherds (27g) which are in moderate to good condition, in terms of edge abrasion and surface preservation.

Two ware types are represented, both of which are commonly found in Gloucestershire. Fill 11050 of ditch 11051 produced a sherd of Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware (TF41), which dates to the 11th to 13th centuries. From fill 11048 of furrow 11049 is a sherd of Malvernian unglazed ware (TF40), of 12th to 14th century date (Vince unpublished).

### *Lithics*

A flint blade from fill 11046 of ditch 11047 had been subjected to burning. Blade technology is typical of the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods. However, this item is in a heavily edge damaged condition, which suggests it has been redeposited.

### *Glass*

A fragment of green-coloured glass, from a vessel of modern date, was retrieved from fill 10004 of furrow 10005.

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
10004	Modern glass Coal	Vessel		1 3	2 <1	Modern
11046	Worked flint	Blade		1	8	Prehistoric
11048	Medieval pottery	Malvernian unglazed ware	TF40	1	14	C12-C14
11050	Medieval pottery	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware	TF41	1	13	C11-C13

## APPENDIX C: ANIMAL BONE

By Andy Clarke

Nine fragments of animal bone (178g) were recovered from site. The material was fragmented and in a poor state of preservation. Two fragments (27g) were recovered from deposit 11050, the fill of medieval ditch 11051; one of which was identifiable as a phalange of a cow (*Bos taurus*). The remaining seven (151g) fragments were recovered from deposits 11017, 11023 and 11028 but not in association with any datable finds. The remains of cattle were once again identified in the form of two fragments of pelvis and a tibia shaft, respectively from 11017 and 11023. No butchery marks were observed on any of the material that may suggest an origin in domestic waste.

No further useful interpretative data beyond species identification was obtainable and considering the fragmentation and poor preservation, it is more than likely that the fragments are residual in nature.

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

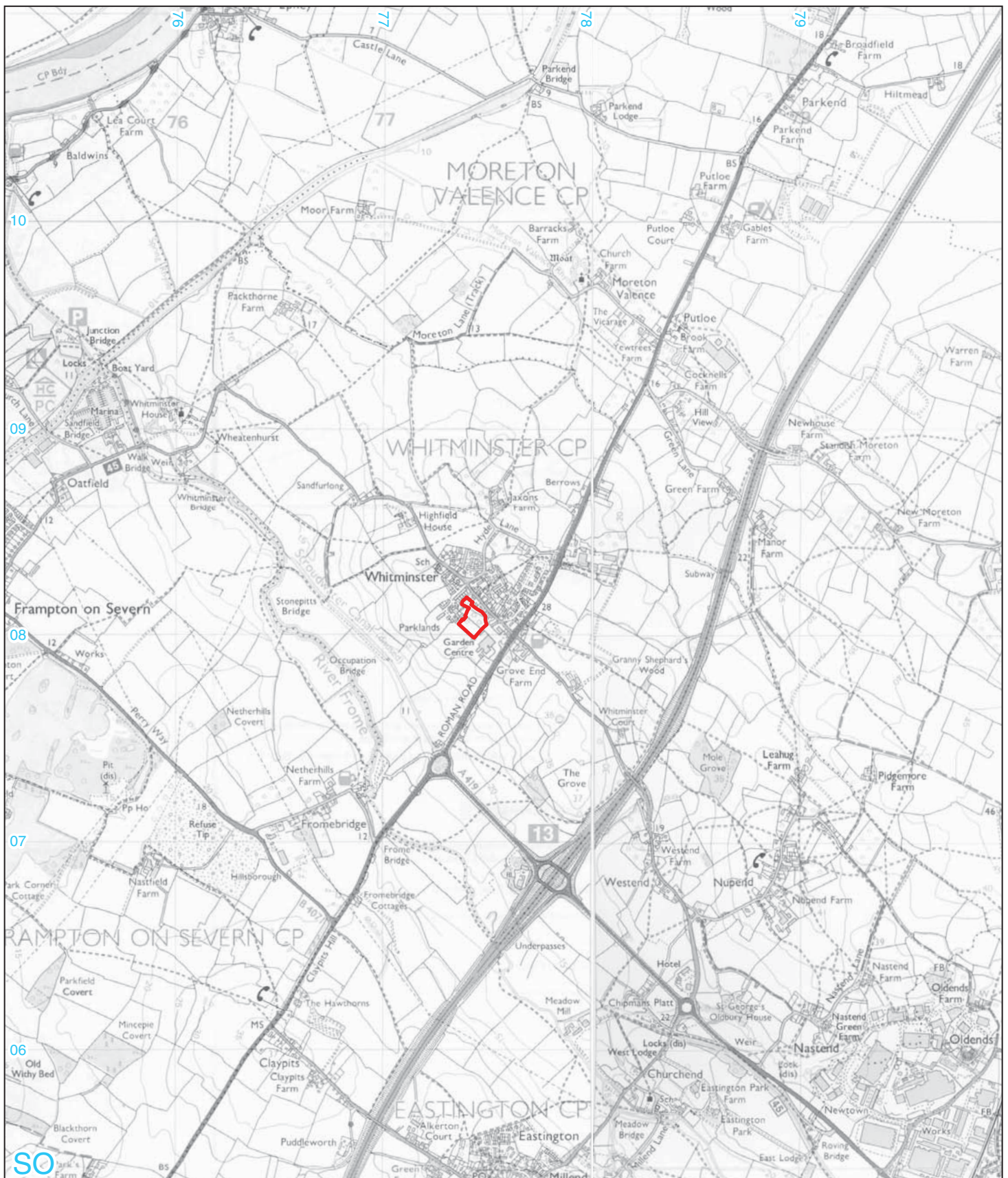
<b>Cut</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>BOS</b>	<b>LM</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
<b>Medieval</b>						
11051	11050	1	1		2	27
<b>Undated</b>						
11015	11017	2			2	67
11024	11023	1			1	79
11027	11028			4	4	5
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>Weight</b>		<b>157</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>178</b>	

BOS = Cattle; LM= large sized mammal; Ind = Indeterminate

**APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land at Parklands Farm	
Short description	<p>An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January and February 2016 on land at Parklands Farm, Whitminster, Gloucestershire. The excavation area was located in the central-eastern extent of the development area, targeted upon features identified during a preceding archaeological evaluation.</p> <p>The excavation revealed an evolving agricultural landscape consisting of the undated ditches and pits, the latter largely interpreted as quarry scoops, which were subsequently superseded by two phases of ridge and furrow cultivation of presumed medieval and/or post-medieval date.</p>	
Project dates	11 January - 5 February 2016	
Project type	Excavation	
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (CA 2013, Report 13592), Geophysical Survey (Archaeological Surveys 2014), Archaeological Evaluation (CA 2014, Report 14063)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Whitminster, Gloucestershire	
Study area	Site: 1.3ha, Excavation area: 4700m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates	SO 7742 0806	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Ceramics, animal bone
Paper	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Context and trench sheets
Digital	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Digital photos and drawings
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Land at Parklands Farm, Whitminster, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Excavation</i> CA typescript report <b>16133</b>		





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**PROJECT TITLE**

Land at Parklands Farm, Whitminster  
Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan



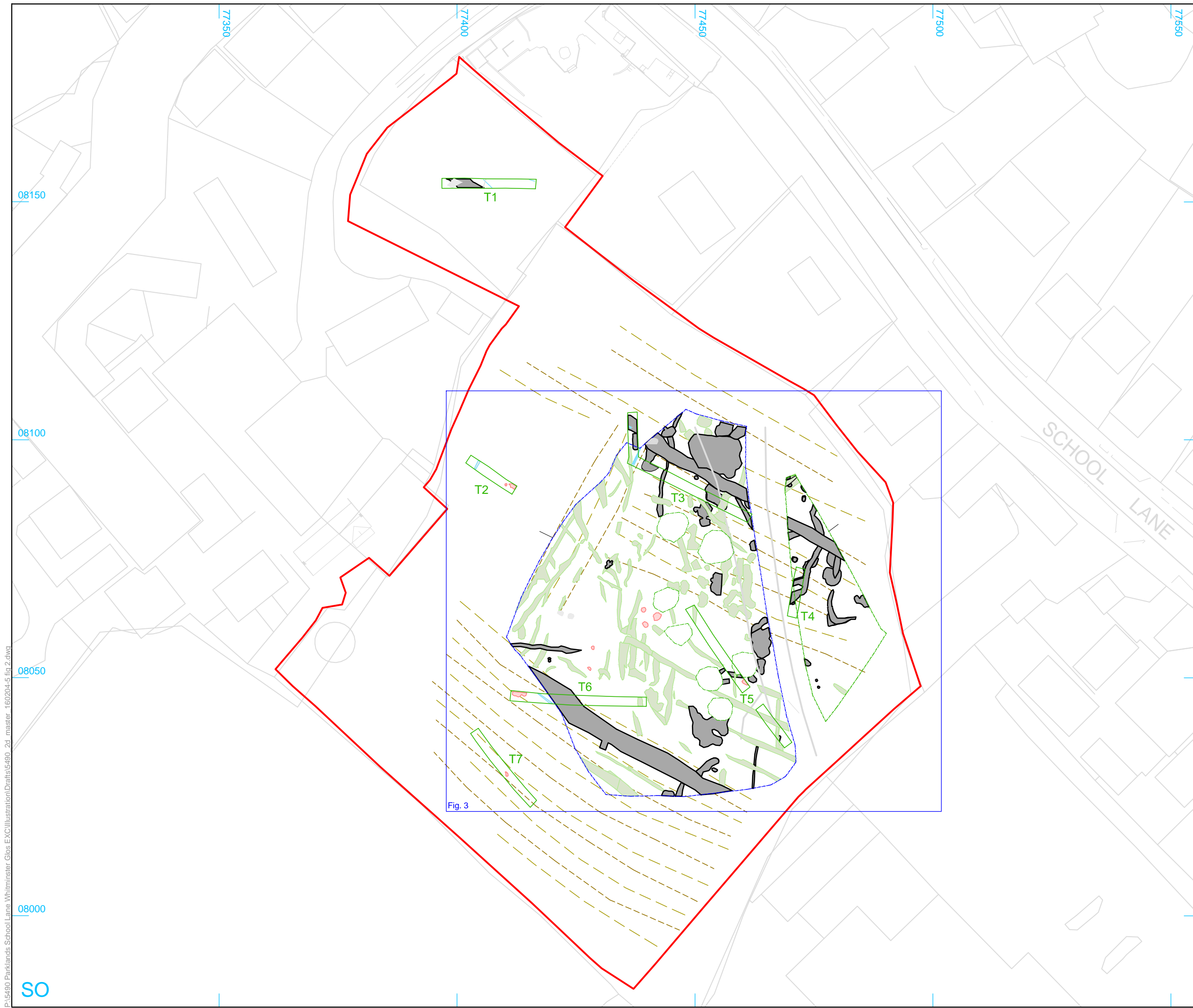
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FIGURE NO.

1





- site boundary
- excavation area
- evaluation trench (CA 2014)
- archaeological feature
- furrow
- modern
- field drain
- treethrow

*earthwork survey results*

- furrow
- ridge



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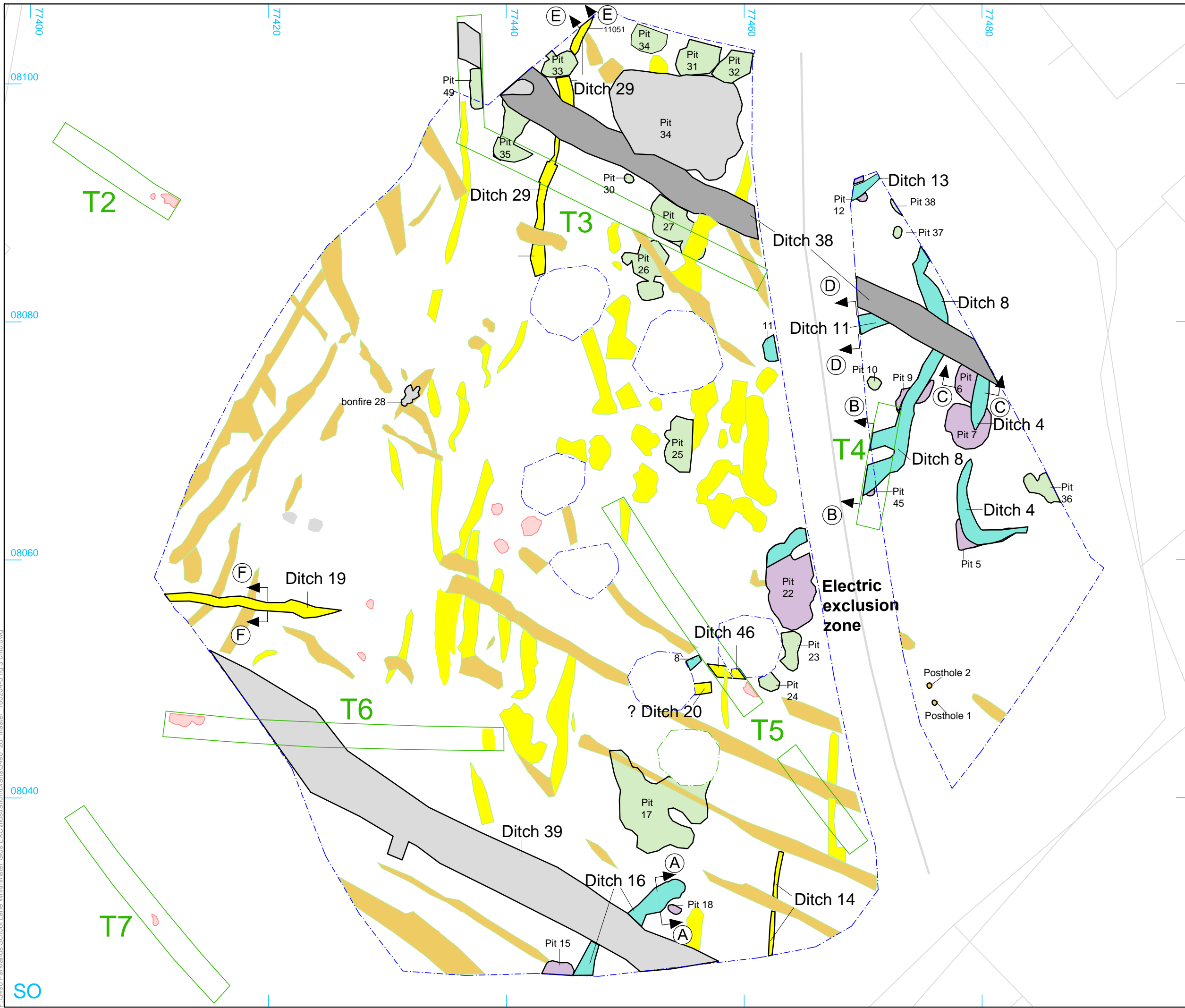
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Land at Parklands Farm, Whitminster  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
**The site showing the excavation area, previous evaluation trenches, and identified archaeological features**

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<b>APPROVED BY</b> CB	<b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:750	

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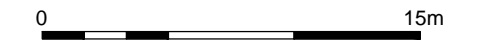
SO



- limit of excavation
- evaluation trench (CA 2014)
- treethrow
- interventions
- B B section location

**Feature phase and type**

- Phase 2**
  - quarry pits
  - ditches / boundaries
- Phase 3**
  - north / south ditches
  - furrows
  - quarry pits
- Phase 4**
  - furrows
- Phase 5**
  - modern



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Phase plan of excavated area

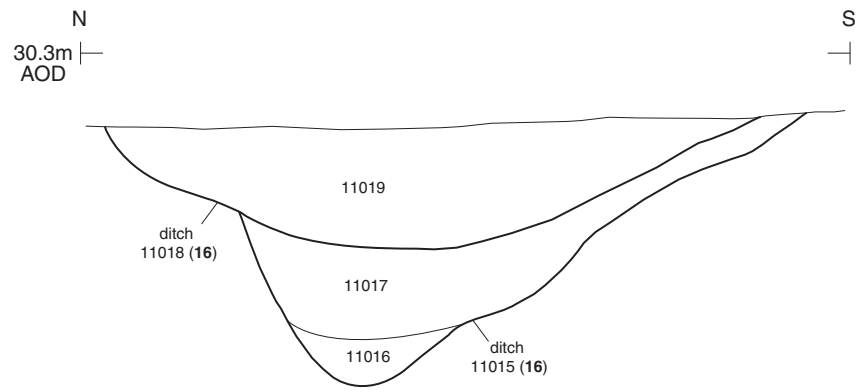
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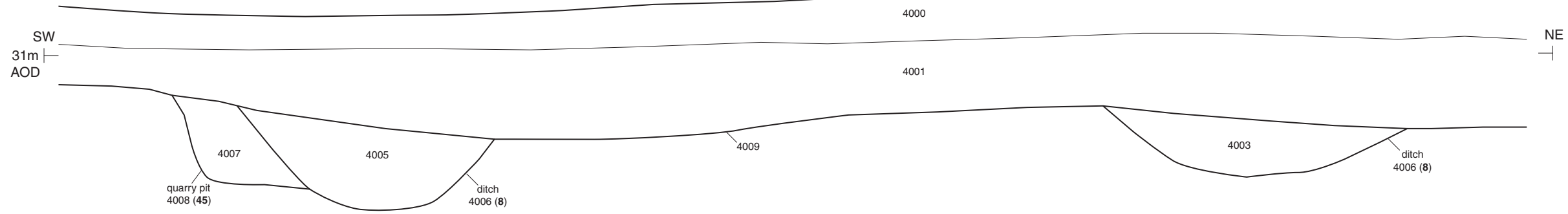


Section AA



Boundary ditch 16, looking east (scale 1m)

Section BB



Boundary ditch 8 and quarry pit 45, looking north-west (scales 1m)



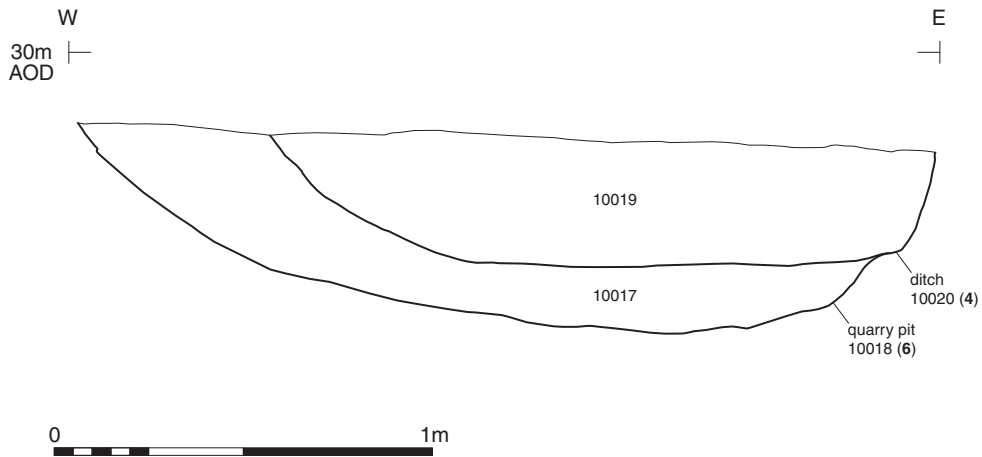
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FIGURE TITLE  
 Ditches 16, 8 and pit 45 sections and  
 photographs

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Section CC



Ditch 4 and quarry pit 6, looking north (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Ditch 4 and quarry pit 6 section and  
photograph

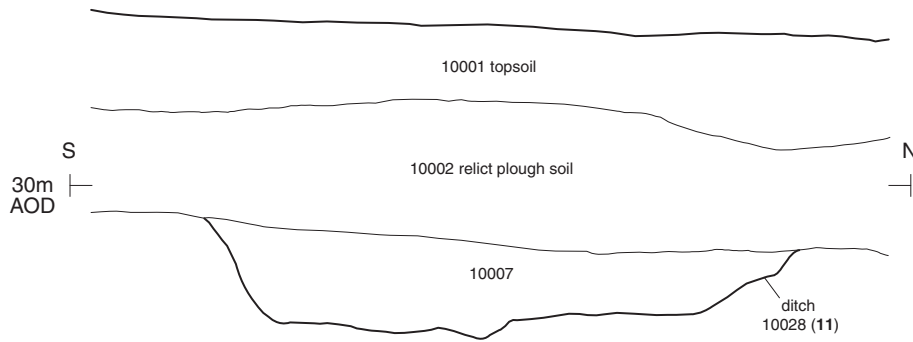
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FIGURE NO.

5



Section DD



Ditch 11, looking west (scale 1m)



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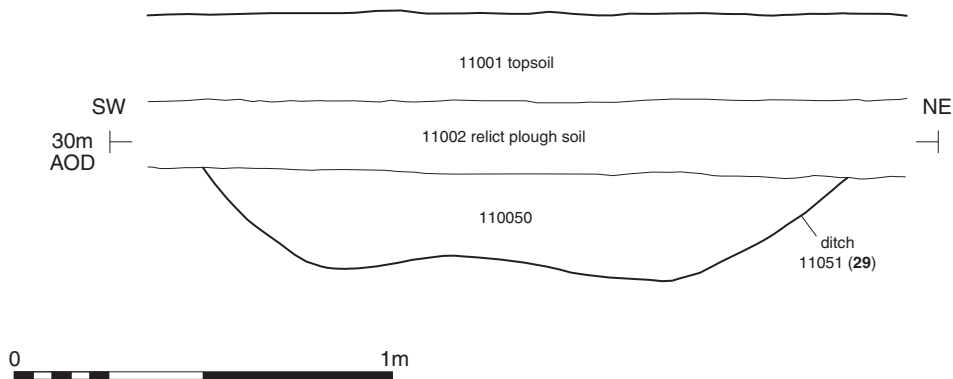
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FIGURE TITLE

**Ditch 11 section and photograph**

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Section EE



Ditch 29, looking north-west (scale 0.5m)



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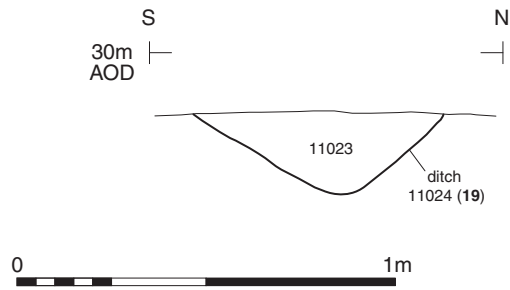
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FIGURE TITLE

**Ditch 29 section and photograph**

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Section FF



Ditch 19, looking north-west (scale 0.5m)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Ditch 19 section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

8

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