Cotswold Archaeology

Former Nortenham Allotments Site
Bishop's Cleeve
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Excavation

for:
Platform Housing Ltd

CA Project: CR1083
CA Report: CR1083_1

June 2023

Andover Cirencester Milton Keynes Suffolk

Former Nortenham Allotments Site
Bishop's Cleeve
Gloucestershire

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Former Nortenham Allotments Site
Location:	Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire
NGR:	395464 228290
Type:	Excavation
Date:	March–April 2022
Planning reference:	20/00245/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with The Wilson: Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	CAALLO22

Between March and April 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation of land at the former Nortenham Allotments, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire. An area of 0.3ha was excavated.

The earliest remains comprised two pits which produced Early Neolithic pottery in the plain bowl tradition along with a small assemblage of flints. Other pits may have been contemporary and the pits as a whole probably point to episodic occupation of this part of the Severn Vale.

Occupation may also have occurred during the Middle Bronze Age when a structure interpreted as a post-built roundhouse was constructed, possibly associated with a ditch and two shallow pits. Unfortunately, all lacked dating evidence, but the roundhouse is comparable to a Middle Bronze Age example found at the nearby Cleevelands site. The pits are of unknown function.

Later remains comprised ditches which lacked datable finds, but which may have formed a continuation of Late Iron Age and Roman enclosures, trackways and boundaries found at the nearby Cleevelands and Stoke Road sites, to west and south-west respectively. The latest remains were plough furrows, probably of post-medieval date, and a pit containing a donkey or pony skeleton found with 19th-century horseshoes and a sherd of 18th to 19th-century pottery.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Between March and April 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation at the former Nortenham Allotments, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 395464 228290; Fig. 1).

1.2. These works arose from Tewkesbury Borough Council's (TBC) grant of planning permission for the erection of 113 dwellings, provision of access, drainage, public open space, landscaping and associated works at the site (TBC planning ref: 20/00245/FUL). Condition 12 of this consent required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved written scheme of investigation (WSI).

1.3. The scope of this archaeological work was defined by Toby Catchpole, Heritage Team Leader, Gloucestershire County Council, the archaeological advisor to TBC. An excavation was specified, to be carried out in accordance with a WSI prepared by CA (2022) and approved by Toby Catchpole.

1.4. The excavation was undertaken on behalf of Cotswold Homes Ltd but the site subsequently changed ownership, with the post-excavation analysis and reporting being funded by Platform Housing Ltd.

1.5. The excavation was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020), and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015).

The site

1.6. The development site is 3.8ha, located on the north-western edge of the village of Bishop's Cleeve (NGR: 395464 228290; Fig. 1). The site is bounded by residential development to the east, west and south with the Dean Brook located immediately to the north. It comprised an irregular parcel of land previously used as allotments and occupying a slight slope within the generally flat Severn Vale, rising from 45m aOD in the north to 48m aOD in the south (Fig. 2). The excavations reported here occupied a small area (0.3ha) within the southern part of the site (Fig. 3)

1.7. The bedrock geology is mapped as the Jurassic Charmouth Mudstone Formation, which is overlain by Quaternary deposits of the Cheltenham Sand and Gravel member (BGS 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The growth of Bishop's Cleeve has prompted numerous developer-funded archaeological investigations within the village since the 1990s which have revealed a rich record of prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and later remains within the village and its environs, making it one of the most intensively studied rural settings in the county. Previous discoveries are summarised below, and sites mentioned in the text are shown on Figure 1.

Prehistoric

Neolithic and Bronze Age

2.2. The earliest remains so far recorded within Bishop's Cleeve are Mesolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flints found as residual finds, for example in the centre of the village (Enright and Watts 2002, 5) and on the Cleevelands site (Hart *et al.* 2021, 57). These suggest transient use of the valley floor by hunter-gatherers who would have included the locality within their range, which would also have included the varied resources offered by the local streams, the Severn and the uplands.

2.3. Excavations south of Church Road, 750m south-east of the Allotments site, revealed a tree-throw hole which produced decorated grog-tempered pottery from a Beaker or Early Bronze Age Food Vessel, along with the carbonised remains of cereal grains and gathered foods (Lovell *et al.* 2007, 97–99).

2.4. West of the current site, recent excavations at Cleevelands, uncovered an unenclosed Middle Bronze Age roundhouse settlement comprising two structures; a nearby cemetery was of the same date and comprised cremation graves (Hart *et al.* 2021, 57–62). These features have been used as a comparison with those found at the current site due to a paucity of dating evidence from the current site itself (see Results and Discussion sections, below). Also at Cleevelands, several large pits, broadly contemporary with the settlement and cemetery, preserved waterlogged wood, indicating that they had been lined. One included a log ladder, a bark vessel and a wooden scutching tool, the latter an object used in the processing of plant fibres. Despite the presence of the scutching tool, there was no evidence that the pits

had been used in plant processing and their function is uncertain, although use for ritual purposes is a possible explanation (ibid.).

Iron Age

2.5. The Church Road excavations revealed a roundhouse settlement and associated drainage ditches dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age (Lovell *et al.* 2007, 99). Some 150m to the north of that site, recording at Gilder's Paddock revealed Middle to Late Iron Age ditches and grain storage pits, and there was evidence that the occupants there engaged in livestock farming (Parry 1999, 100).

2.6. At Cleevelands, there was little evidence for a Late Bronze Age presence, but during the Early to Middle Iron Age, the site was used by farmers who occupied roundhouses within an unenclosed settlement located on drier sands/gravels within the southern part of the site (Hart *et al.* 2021, 62–3). The evidence there showed that they grazed livestock on the clays to the north and also grew cereals. Further late prehistoric and Roman enclosures were found during recent excavations by Cotswold Archaeology at Stoke Road, south-west of the site (CA 2023).

Roman

2.7. Archaeological investigations in and around Bishops Cleeve appear to indicate two foci of activity: one within the core of the village, close to the church; and the second on land only recently developed to the immediate north-west of the village. The Roman evidence within the village core has been observed during a variety of small-scale investigations, *c.* 500m and greater to the south-east of the Allotments. The Roman activity observed on the north-west side of the village has been seen on sites of greater scale, most notably the Cleevelands and Cotswold Archaeology Stoke Road sites (Hart et al. 2021 and CA 2023 respectively; note that the use of 'Cotswold Archaeology' here is to distinguish this site from the other Stoke Road investigation by Enright and Watts, 2002). As shown on Figure 3, the Roman remains at Cleevelands practically abut those seen on the Allotments site, while the Cotswold Archaeology Stoke Road site lies 1.25km to the south-west. Overall, the picture – albeit very much incomplete – is of a very extensive area of Roman activity, of which the Allotments site was a part.

Roman remains within the core of Bishops Cleeve

2.8. Malvernian pottery recovered from the Church Road and Gilder's Paddock Iron Age sites indicates that these continued into the Late Iron Age to Roman transition period.

However, at Church Road, no Roman structural remains were found, suggesting that settlement had moved beyond the site at some point between the Late Iron Age and the Early Roman period.

2.9. At Cleeve Hall, 100m west of the Church Road site, a few pottery sherds indicate Early Roman activity but most of the remains dated to the Late Roman period, within the 3rd to 4th centuries AD (Ellis and King 2013). This later Roman activity included ditched enclosures, a droveway, a hearth, and a few pits, whilst there were also possible beam slots and a finds assemblage indicative of settlement (ibid., 137). Animal bones from the Cleeve Hall site were predominantly from cattle, suggesting a pastoral element to the economy, and there were indications of primary butchery on the site (ibid., 137–8). The enclosures were abandoned in the later Roman period, perhaps having been supplanted by a timber-revetted enclosure during the later Roman, sub-Roman or Anglo-Saxon periods (ibid., 138).

2.10. At Home Farm, 100m north of Cleeve Hall, the earliest Roman remains were a drainage ditch dating to the 2nd century AD and a series of ditched land plots (Barber and Walker 1998). There was also a pit which seemed to have held liquids, although its precise function was not apparent, whilst two further pits produced metalworking debris indicative of small-scale smithing and brass-casting. The evidence suggested an intensification of activity during the late 3rd to 4th centuries during which time ditched garden plots were laid out, and pits and ovens created, along with drystone walls, the latter probably boundaries or parts of a minor building (ibid., 123–4). Roman demolition debris within the site included stone rubble, ceramic tile fragments and mortar, found with a range of finds indicative of rural occupation, including unabraded late 4th-century pottery (ibid., 124).

2.11. Ditched enclosures, probably for livestock, were found 200m south-west of Home Farm, along with evidence for settlement, industrial activity and burial (this site was known as Stoke Road, but is here distinguished from the more recent Stoke Road excavations (CA 2023) by reference to the report authors and date: Enright and Watts 2002). The pottery indicated that these dated to the Late Roman period, within the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, dating supported by a coin hoard of AD 340–50 from the same site (ibid., 68). The animal bone assemblage suggested that cattle were predominant and were kept into maturity as working animals for traction, dairying and breeding before being killed for their meat (ibid., 68). Evidence for cereal processing was also recovered in the form of millstone fragments. This agricultural area was

bounded to the south by a ditch, beyond which lay a small burial plot, possibly belonging to a family. Some of the graves had been lined with stones which may have supported un-nailed coffins, a practice common in the region (Philpott 1991, 61–6) and also seen 350m to the north-east at Gilder's Paddock (Parry 1999, 101). Ironworking debris indicative of smithing was recovered from pit and ditch fills, but this was small-scale and probably undertaken to repair or create items needed on the farm (Enright and Watts 2002, 69). Part of a structure was present, although of uncertain form and function. Roman ceramic building material (CBM) re-used in medieval surfaces at the same site was taken to indicate the nearby presence of a hypocausted building (ibid., 69).

2.12. Building debris found within demolition deposits at Home Farm and the medieval surfaces at Stoke Road (Enright and Watts 2002) may have been associated with masonry wall foundations and spreads of demolition material identified during an evaluation of the Hitchens Phases 10 and 11 site (Hart 1992). Together, these may indicate the approximate location of a 4th-century Roman villa although, if so, its precise location awaits discovery (Holbrook 2006, 109). A small Roman cemetery at Gilder's Paddock was possibly related to this putative villa, although the burials were only broadly dated as Roman by analysis of the stratigraphic sequence (Parry 1999, 98, 101).

2.13. Overall, the impression given by the current extent of recording within the core of Bishop's Cleeve is that a possible Late Roman villa succeeded at least one earlier Roman farmstead which itself may have had Iron Age origins. The economy was based on both pastoralism and arable production, whilst metalworking was undertaken on an as-needs basis.

Roman remains to the north-west of Bishops Cleeve

2.14. North-west of this concentration of Iron Age and Roman settlement, a second focus of activity was initially suggested by cropmarks south-west of Dean Farm (GHER 6428; Fig. 1). Part of this area was investigated during fieldwalking and groundworks associated with the construction of the Bishop's Cleeve bypass in 1989 (GHER 9882, 13060; Rawes and Rawes 1990; Wills and Parry 1990, 193). The discoveries comprised pits and ditches associated with Roman finds. Subsequent work to the immediate north during the Cleevelands development suggested that by the Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition period, the drier southern part of that site, overlying sandy gravels, was used for livestock enclosures and occupation, with open grazing

and probable arable fields located on the clays to the north, and this pattern continued through the Roman period into the second half of the 4th century AD (Hart *et al.* 2021, 63–8). The stock enclosure ditches showed evidence for frequent re-cutting, probably as a result of inundation, and there was also a crop-processing oven surrounded by a drainage ditch.

2.15. Isotope analysis of selected Cleevelands animal bones showed that the inhabitants farmed animals which were for the most part reared locally, but also imported some beasts, or engaged in transhumance, most probably between the site and the Cotswold uplands (Hart *et al.* 2021, 63–8). As well as farming, there was a smithy where metal tools were repaired and recycled. A small number of inhumations were dispersed around the site. There was evidence of a Romanised building of some quality; this probably lay within the unexcavated south-western part of the site and is of unknown form but was perhaps a villa, in which case suggesting that the Roman farm became part of a villa estate. Of note is a relatively large assemblage of millstones from the Cleevelands site which suggests a watermill in the near vicinity. Whilst this may have been part of the farm, more probably it was a central mill, serving several such farms as part of a villa estate; the location of this mill is not known. This settlement continued into at least the second half of the 4th century and extended south and west of the Cleevelands site, with the late prehistoric enclosures at Stoke Road (CA 2023) having Roman successors.

Anglo-Saxon

2.16. A monastery is recorded at Bishop's Cleeve in documentary sources of the second half of the 8th century, but excavation has shown that Anglo-Saxon occupation in the vicinity extends back to at least the 6th/7th centuries AD. This is most clearly evidenced by a mid 6th to 7th-century cemetery excavated in 1969 at Lower Farm, 1.2km south-west of the current site (Holbrook 2000). The cemetery included at least 26 graves which produced a few grave goods such as spearheads, brooches and buckles. It was perhaps the burial plot of a family, used over some 50 to 75 years (ibid., 88).

2.17. Within Bishop's Cleeve itself, Anglo-Saxon activity was identified at the Church Road site, with both organic-tempered pottery of the 6th–8th centuries AD and limestone-tempered pottery of the 9th–11th centuries having been found (Lovell *et al.* 2007, 106). There, the features comprised mainly drainage ditches, but the quantities of pottery suggest the presence of a settlement nearby (ibid., 110). At Stoke Road

(Enright and Watts 2002), 500m south of the Allotments site, five Anglo-Saxon postholes perhaps formed part of a circular structure such as a windbreak (ibid., 11). Handmade pottery of the 5th to 7th centuries was recovered from Home Farm, 500m south-east of the Allotments site, although no features of that date were identified (Barber and Walker 1998, 124).

2.18. The end date of the Roman settlement at Cleevelands was after the second half of the 4th century, but there was evidence for a very Late Roman or early post-Roman presence in the form of a cremation deposit radiocarbon dated to the early 5th to mid 6th centuries AD, whilst there was also a pit which contained organic-tempered pottery of the 5th to 8th centuries AD (Hart *et al.* 2021, 68–9). At Stoke Road (CA 2023), two probable Early Anglo-Saxon graves seem to have been placed with reference to former Roman enclosures, which remained as earthworks into the post-Roman centuries, and this may have been intended as a way of establishing land ownership.

Medieval and later

2.19. The site probably lay within open fields during the medieval period, something suggested by ridge-and-furrow cultivation remains found at Cleevelands and also recorded at the current site. The site remained in agricultural use until the time of the present development. The 1842 tithe map of Bishop's Cleeve shows the site as open land; field boundaries appear on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1884). By the second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1902 the site had been converted for use by residents of the village and been marked as 'Allotment Gardens'. During the 20th century, Bishops Cleeve expanded significantly from its historic core, including on its north/north-western side in the direction of the site. This process has continued in recent years, most notably with the creation of the Cleevelands development, such that the site – now developed itself – had become enveloped by housing on all sides, albeit with open country a little beyond the stream that formed its northern boundary.

Site investigation history

2.20. The site has previously been the subject to Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2020a), and archaeological trial-trench evaluation (CA 2020b). These preliminary works encompassed the overall development area, as shown on Fig. 3. The evaluation identified a single pit containing worked flint flakes and pottery of probable Early Neolithic date within Trench 19 in the southern part of the development area (for its location see Fig. 4). Evidence of medieval/post-medieval plough furrows and

probable field boundary ditches was identified in the central and southern parts of the development area.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The general objectives of the archaeological excavation, as defined by the WSI (CA 2022) were to:

- identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features at the site prior to their destruction by the proposed development;
- recover and analyse any artefactual evidence;
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy;
- report on and publish the archaeological results at a level appropriate to their significance; and
- compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive.

3.2. The specific objective of the excavation was to determine whether further features of Early Neolithic date were present in proximity to the Early Neolithic pit recorded during the evaluation (CA 2020b).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Based on the findings of the preliminary works detailed above, a single excavation area was investigated based on the recommendations of Toby Catchpole. This was initially specified as a rectangular area of 0.25ha but was slightly extended during the fieldwork to investigate partially exposed features along the western limit of excavation, with the approval of Toby Catchpole and Cotswold Homes Ltd (Fig. 3). The final excavation area amounted to 0.3ha.

4.2. The excavation was set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the excavation areas 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.

4.3. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2017).

4.4. 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* (2012).

4.5. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).

4.6. CA will make arrangements with Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum for the deposition of the project archive and, with agreement of the legal landowner, 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).

4.7. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix J, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

5.1. This section provides an overview of the excavation 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 Appendices B–G. Details of the animal bones and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are given in Section 7 and Appendices H and I.

5.2. The evidence of ridge-and-furrow cultivation in the excavation area suggests that some horizontal truncation has occurred. Despite this, stratigraphic analysis of the features indicates four phases of activity, assigned as Periods 1–4.

5.3. Artefactual dating evidence was only recovered from a small number of features, assigned to Periods 1 and 4. Samples were taken from several undated deposits but most did not yield suitable material for radiocarbon dating, particularly in respect of the features which were assigned to Periods 2 and 3, where a scientific date would have proved most useful. As a consequence, phasing the remains has proven difficult. However, as discussed in Section 2, the site is immediately adjacent to the Cleevelands excavation (Hart *et al.* 2021) where late prehistoric and Roman remains

were found; the findings there have been used to infer the dating of Period 2 and 3 features within the current site. On this basis, the defined periods are as follow:

- Geology, soils and natural features
- Period 1: Early Neolithic (4000–3000 BC)
- Period 2: Middle Bronze Age (1500–1100 BC)
- Period 3: Late Iron Age to Roman (100 BC–AD 410)
- Period 4: post-medieval and modern (1540–1900)

Geology, soils and natural features

5.4. The natural substrate of yellow-orange clay sand with occasional patches of yellow-brown gravel, was recorded throughout the stripped area at an average depth of c. 0.4m below present ground level. All archaeological features revealed during the excavation cut the natural substrate and were sealed by subsoil, which was up to 0.2m in thickness and was in turn covered by topsoil of 0.1m deep. Two tree-throw holes were recorded. Both were ovoid features up to 1.2m long and 0.4m deep, with irregular sides and bases.

Period 1: Early Neolithic (4000–3000 BC) (Figs 4, 5 and 11)

5.5. The earliest datable remains were two Early Neolithic pits, 1031 and 1045 (Fig. 4). Together, these yielded 113 sherds of pottery, including much of a single but fragmented vessel (Ra. 3) found in upper fill 1047 of pit 1045, this accounting for 49 sherds. All the pottery is in a fossil shell-tempered fabric, probably in the plain bowl tradition of the Early Neolithic.

5.6. Pit 1031 near the eastern site edge corresponds to the Early Neolithic pit found during the evaluation in Trench 19 and was fully excavated during the excavation. During the evaluation, it yielded 12 sherds of Early Neolithic pottery, a piece of undiagnostic fired clay and nine worked flints, the latter mostly of broad prehistoric date but including flakes and a core rejuvenation flake datable to the Mesolithic to Early Neolithic period (CA 2020a, trench 19, pit 1905). The subsequent excavation produced no further finds and it was found that the projected remaining part of the pit was largely truncated by a plough furrow. A bulk environmental sample taken during the excavation yielded only a few charcoal fragments. The pit itself was 1m in diameter and 0.2m deep with gently sloping sides leading to a flat base (Fig. 5, Section AA and photograph a).

5.7. Some 30m west of pit 1031 was a second Neolithic pit, 1045. This was an oval cut 1.3m long, 0.85m wide and 0.25m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 5, Section BB and photograph b). It contained two dark sandy silt fills, 1046 and 1047. The basal fill, 1046, appears to represent a waste dump, sloping down from the south where it was tipped in. Charcoal from this deposit produced a large number of charred hazelnut fragments and charcoal pieces. The two fills together produced 113 Early Neolithic pottery sherds along with 26 pieces of worked flint and a small quantity of animal bone which, where identifiable, was from cattle. As with pit 1031, the few closely datable flints belong to the Mesolithic to Early Neolithic periods. The pottery included the partial remains of the single pottery vessel (Ra. 3, Fig. 11 no. 4) noted above in para. 5.6, this being a bowl with a simple upright rim. A minimum of three other pottery vessels were identifiable alongside Ra. 3, with the majority of their sherds being recovered from the upper fill, indicating a possible structured deposit. This suggestion is supported by the flints, most of which came from the horizon between the two fills, suggesting they were deposited in between the two stages of infilling.

Period 2: Middle Bronze Age (1500–1100 BC) (Figs 4 and 6)

5.8. Period 2 is presented here as having comprised a possible roundhouse, perhaps located within an open-sided ditched enclosure and possibly associated with two large pits (Fig. 4). However, all of these features lacked finds and not only are their dates are uncertain, it is also unclear whether all belonged to a single phase of activity. Nevertheless, based on analogy with the discoveries at Cleevelands, this group of features is tentatively phased as Middle Bronze Age, a suggestion considered more fully in the Discussion section, below.

Roundhouse 1

5.9. A post-built structure (here defined as Roundhouse 1) was partially exposed at the western edge of the site. It survived as an arc of five postholes (1136, 1139, 1141, 1162 and 1164) and if further postholes had been present to form a ring, then this structure would have been some 5m in diameter (Fig. 6, plan). Alternatively, it may have been a crescent-shaped structure of comparable width. The postholes were typically 0.5m in diameter and 0.25m deep with steep sides and concave bases, generally containing single sandy silt fills (Fig. 6, photographs a and b). A layer of redeposited natural clay, 1137, at the base of posthole 1136, may be the remains of material used to pack around a post. Samples from postholes 1138, 1139, and 1141

yielded small quantities of charcoal, a single charred wheat grain and a single *Prunus* fruit pip, all likely to represent floor sweepings which would have accumulated within voids left beneath the bases of the posts as they rotted during the life of the roundhouse, a phenomenon noted by Reynolds (1995).

Ditch 1

5.10. Ditch 1 was also partially exposed at the western edge of the site, extending into the site for 23m and passing within 7m east of Roundhouse 1 before ending at a clear terminal. It was a broad, shallow cut 1.8m wide and 0.35m deep with an open u-shaped profile and contained three silty clay fills which lacked finds (Fig. 6, photograph c). A sample from the ditch was also unproductive. Despite the absence of dating evidence, the ditch is tentatively phased as having been contemporary with the roundhouse since both features were truncated by ditches belonging to a Period 3 trackway. It is possible that this ditch formed part of an open-sided enclosure within which Roundhouse 1 was located. Unfortunately, given its limited exposure and the absence of further information, this must remain as speculation and it is equally possible that these belonged to different periods of activity, albeit both pre-dating the trackway.

Pits 1093 and 1121

5.11. Ditch 1 was slightly truncated along its western edge by two large pits, 1093 and 1121. Given that these features only clipped the ditch edge and that the ditch was only shallow, it is possible that the ditch remained open when these pits were cut. However, it is also possible that the two pits post-date the infilling of the ditch and it is worth noting that they lacked a direct stratigraphic relationship with the Period 3 trackway that had truncated Ditch 1 and the roundhouse.

5.12. Pit 1093 was 2.2m in diameter and 0.55m deep with steep sides leading to a flat base. It contained two sandy clay fills which lacked finds.

5.13. Pit 1121 was 1.5m by 0.9m in extent and 0.25m deep. It had steep sides leading to a flat base and contained a single yellow-grey sandy clay fill. Again, there were no finds from this feature.

Period 3: Late Iron Age to Roman (100 BC–AD 410) (Figs 4 and 7)

5.14. A trackway and boundary ditch found towards the western edge of the excavation lacked finds but are tentatively phased as Late Iron Age to Roman based on analogy

with similar features found at Cleevelands (Figs 4 and 6). This is explored in greater detail in the *Discussion* section, below.

5.15. Trackway 1 truncated the possible Bronze Age roundhouse and enclosure ditch and ran across the site of a north/south alignment. No surfacing was present, and the trackway survived as two broadly parallel flanking ditches (Ditches 2 and 3) which were 4.5m apart at the northern end of the site, narrowing to 2.5m apart where they exited the southern site edge. The ditches themselves were 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep with steep sides and concave bases and contained homogenous silty clay fills. No continuation of this trackway to the north was identified in any of the evaluation trenches.

5.16. Some 5m east of Trackway 1, a parallel ditch (Ditch 4) may have formed a contemporary field boundary, or perhaps a drainage feature associated with the trackway. It was a substantial cut, 2.7m wide and 0.6m deep with a steep u-shaped profile and had been re-cut several times (Fig. 7 photograph a). It terminated within the site. Its silty clay fills produced only animal bone whilst a sample from the ditch produced no charred remains and only a single snail shell, this from a shade-loving species.

Period 4: post-medieval and modern (1540–1900) (Figs 4 and 7)

5.17. Post-medieval activity comprised plough furrows and a single pit containing an animal burial. The plough furrows were aligned east/west and were straight cuts, exposed for a distance of some 40m (Fig. 4). They were cut through the subsoil, itself probably a plough soil associated with ridge-and-furrow cultivation. Each plough furrow was up to 2.5m wide and penetrated up to 0.15m into the natural substrate. One of the fills produced a silver spoon datable to 1837. Another plough furrow contained a sherd of late 17th to 18th-century Westerwald Stoneware pottery, a German import. By the late 19th century, the historic map evidence indicates that the site had been converted into allotments, a change which provides a *terminus ante quem* for the agricultural use of the land.

5.18. The animal burial (1039) was contained within pit 1040 in the north-eastern part of the site. The pit was 1.2m long, 0.8m wide and 0.15m deep and contained the remains of what was probably a donkey, although it could have been a small pony (Fig. 7, photograph b). It was a male animal and seems to have been well cared for, having died in old age. Two iron horseshoes, datable on typological grounds to the

later 19th century, were recovered from the forelegs of the animal. A single sherd of Staffordshire ware pottery came from the pit and dates to the 18th to early 19th centuries, so was presumably residual or part of a broken heirloom item accidentally included within the grave fill.

Undated

5.19. Three ditches (5, 6 and 7) and nine pits or postholes remain undated since they lacked datable finds and are not easily identified via form, and/or alignment as having been associated with phased features within the site (Fig. 4). The ditches were shallow cuts found near the eastern edge of the excavation and perhaps formed part of the Late Iron Age to Roman agricultural landscape.

5.20. Ditch 5 entered the south-east corner of the excavation area and extended 12.5m on a broadly north/south alignment before terminating. It was 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep and included a re-cut which extended the ditch slightly, adding a return towards the west. Both cuts contained homogenous silty clay fills. A sample from the ditch was unproductive.

5.21. Ditch 7 extended southwards for 10m from the north-eastern edge of the excavation area before terminating. It was 0.65m wide and 0.2m deep with a u-shaped profile and contained a single silty clay fill, a sample from which yielded no ecofactual material. It was broadly parallel to Trackway 1, for which Late Iron Age to Roman dating has been suggested.

5.22. Ditch 7 had been truncated by Ditch 6 which followed a north-west/south-east alignment. A slight cut, Ditch 6 was 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep with a u-shaped profile and contained a single silty clay fill.

5.23. The undated pits/postholes typically measured 0.3m to 1.3m in diameter and 0.2m to 0.4m in depth and had bowl-shaped profiles. They contained silty clay fills which lacked artefactual material. Some at least may have been contemporary with the Neolithic pits described under Period 1 and in particular, charred hazelnut shells from oval pit 1035, 10m north of Neolithic pit 1031, would be consistent with, although not diagnostic of, Neolithic dating.

6. THE FINDS

6.1. The finds assemblage from the site is small, and the majority of features lacked datable materials. However, the discovery of two Early Neolithic pits, dated through the presence of pottery and flints, is locally significant. There was a single piece of fired clay, undiagnostic as to use. The other finds comprise small quantities of pottery, glass, and metalwork which are of post-medieval or later date.

Pottery

6.2. Pottery of prehistoric and post-medieval/modern date was found. The prehistoric pottery came from pits 1031 and 1045 and amounts to 113 sherds (503g). Within pit 1045, a concentration of sherds (Ra. 3) may represent parts of a single vessel, possibly placed as a special deposit. All the prehistoric pottery is in a handmade fossil shell-tempered fabric in the plain bowl tradition of the Early Neolithic.

6.3. The post-medieval/modern pottery amounts to two sherds comprising a late 17th to 18th-century Westerwald stoneware sherd, a type imported from what is now Germany, which came from a plough furrow, and a Staffordshire sherd of the 18th to early 19th centuries from Period 4 donkey/pony burial pit 1040.

Lithics

6.4. A total of 35 worked flints (179g) came from Period 1 (Early Neolithic) pits 1031 and 1045. Of these, 30 can be classed as debitage, of which six are blades which are characteristic of Mesolithic and Early Neolithic flintworking. Four flakes had been removed with a soft hammer, a technique which is again consistent with Mesolithic and Early Neolithic flintworking and this dating is also appropriate for a core rejuvenation flake from pit 1045. The assemblage includes four retouched tools, two of which are not chronologically diagnostic, but two of which are microdenticulates, a form most common in Mesolithic and Early Neolithic assemblages (Fig. 10). One displays silica gloss, a residue derived from plants indicating that these were probably used for processing plants for food or materials.

Metal objects

6.5. Two iron finds were recovered, and one of silver. The iron finds are both horseshoes from Period 4 pit 1040 where they accompanied donkey/pony burial 1039. In form, both date from the later 19th century onwards. The silver object is a teaspoon, recovered from a Period 4 plough furrow and probably made in 1837, based on its

hallmark. As such, it may have been a piece made to celebrate the accession of Queen Victoria, although no royal iconography was displayed on the spoon.

Other finds

6.6. A fragment of fired/burnt clay (8g) was hand-recovered from upper fill 1903 of pit 1905 during the 2020 evaluation (this equates to Period 1 pit 1031, fill 1032, in the present excavation). It presents in a soft-fired sandy fabric and is orange with a black core. The fragment is amorphous and has no features which could suggest its derivation or function.

6.7. A single glass shard from a plough furrow fill is from a post-medieval wine or spirits bottle.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

7.1. The environmental remains were generally sparse across the site. Cattle remains were identified in low numbers within a single Neolithic context along with the charred remains of gathered wild food resources. The charred plant remains recovered from presumed Middle Bronze Age features illustrates the continued exploitation of wild taxa along with arable crops. The environmental remains recovered from the excavated features provide no information regarding the Late Iron Age to Roman period activity on the site. A single animal bone group, identified as an elderly donkey or pony, was recorded within a modern pit which was most likely purposely dug for the burial.

Animal bone

7.2. Animal remains were produced from two features. A total of nine fragments came from Neolithic pit 1045 whilst the skeleton of a small horse or donkey came from modern pit 1040. No detailed information regarding economy or diet was available, since the material from the Neolithic pit was badly preserved and the modern animal bone group was a single individual.

Plant macrofossils

7.3. Charred plant remains were recovered from six of the ten bulk samples examined. Wood charcoal was recorded within all of those examined, but was generally too fragmented to be suitable for further species identification analysis. Evidence of gathered food resources, in the form of hazel nutshells, was recovered from the two features on site, one of which (pit 1045) is dated to the Early Neolithic. This illustrates

the important role these resources played during this period. Arable crop remains were recovered in low numbers, along with wild food taxa from the presumed Middle Bronze Age contexts and are indicative of a reliance on both of agricultural and gathered resources during this period. No charred plant remains were recovered from the features allocated to the Roman period and therefore the samples cannot provide information or insight regarding the economy or activities taking place on the site during this period.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1. Archaeological remains were found across the excavated area and, as far as the data permitted, the fieldwork achieved the aims set out in the WSI (CA 2022). Unfortunately, aside from the two dated Early Neolithic pits and post-medieval to modern features, none of the features contained datable finds, and so the phasing scheme applied to those of Periods 2 and 3 must be regarded as tentative. For these features, the suggested dating is based on analogy with the Cleevelands site to the immediate west (Hart *et al.* 2021) but must be treated with caution given that no features were traceable across the two sites.

Early Neolithic

8.2. The two Early Neolithic pits are dated by the presence of fossil shell-tempered pottery in the plain bowl tradition. At least some of the other pits lacking finds may also date to this period. Neolithic pits are well attested in intensively excavated regions such as the Upper Thames Valley, and fieldwork is revealing increasing numbers across England and Scotland. Those on the current site would seem to represent the first examples found within Bishop's Cleeve (none were identified at Cleevelands) and the Gloucestershire Severn Vale is, on the basis of current evidence, less well populated by Neolithic pits than the Upper Thames valley to the east, although reconsideration of this evidence is long overdue (Darvill 2006 represents the most recent review).

8.3. The functions of these small and often quite irregular pits are not readily apparent, but they fall within the class of pits noted on Neolithic sites across many areas of Britain and which vary widely in size and shape. Such pits can be devoid of finds, or can contain dark fills which yield quantities of materials such as flint, pottery, charred plant remains and animal bones (Garrow *et al.* 2005, Jones and Quinnell 2011, 200; Smythe 2012; Garrow 2012; Hart *et al.* 2014). The Early Neolithic period saw the adoption of farming, but most communities were probably peripatetic, with hunting-

gathering remaining a major part of their subsistence. The landscape at that time would have been largely wooded across much of lowland Britain. In light of the overall pattern of movement (although the frequency of this is uncertain), such small pits found on other sites have been interpreted as having been excavated by Neolithic settlers to commemorate episodic periods of occupation, with token handfuls of domestic waste having been cast into the pits as acts of closure (Carver 2012, 111; Thomas 2012, 2). This interpretation could be extended to the present site, i.e. that the pottery vessels and small flint assemblages within pits 1031 and 1045 may have been deliberately placed.

Middle Bronze Age

8.4. The features suggested as having been Middle Bronze Age comprised a post-built structure, tentatively identified as the remains of a roundhouse, and a ditch, possibly part of an associated enclosure or boundary. It is by no means certain that these two features were associated with one another and they might be of different dates, but both were truncated by the ditches of a trackway, itself only provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age to Roman periods. Two large pits clipping the ditch have also been phased as Middle Bronze Age but, again, this is uncertain.

8.5. If the postholes do represent a roundhouse, then a structure some 5m in diameter is indicated, at least for the upright roof-support posts (a wall line may have been between these, or outside them as a non load-bearing wall). At Cleevelands, a post-built roundhouse survived as a complete post-ring 5m in diameter and was accompanied by a second post-built structure which survived as an arc of postholes, interpreted as the remains of a second roundhouse of similar size, or of a crescent-shaped ancillary structure. There, one of the postholes was associated with a Middle Bronze Age radiocarbon determination of 1293–1115 cal. BC (SUERC-67560; 95.4% probability, Hart *et al.* 2021). Figure 8 shows comparative plans of the Cleevelands and Nortenham Allotments roundhouses, showing that they have similar projected diameters of some 5m. As shown on Figure 8, the Cleevelands roundhouses were located some 220m south-west of that found at the current site and so were probably part of a separate settlement. Whether these represent successive phases occupied by the same inhabitants or their descendants, or places that were occupied contemporaneously is not knowable from the data.

8.6. Ditch 1 was not certainly contemporary with the roundhouse: both were truncated by a Period 3 trackway, but the latter feature could, for example, be a later Roman

feature with the roundhouse being Middle Bronze Age and Ditch 1 belonging to any time between. On this basis, it is very uncertain that the ditch does in fact represent an enclosure within which the roundhouse was located, although this possibility cannot be excluded and open-sided enclosures are a well-attested feature type of the southern British Middle Bronze Age; examples come from sites as far apart as Latton Lands, Wiltshire (Stansbie and Laws 2004, 139, fig. 3), and further afield, such as Down Farm, Dorset (Barrett *et al.* 1991,183–214), Cock Hill, Sussex (ibid., 209) and Hayes Farm Quarry, Clyst Honiton, Devon (Hart *et al.* 2014). The roundhouses at Cleevelands seem to have been unenclosed.

8.7. At Cleevelands, the roundhouses were contemporary with a small cemetery comprising six cremation graves and an outlying grave located 75m north-west of the Cleevelands roundhouses. Radiocarbon dating indicated that the graves and settlement could have been contemporary and this was interpreted as a family cemetery associated with the roundhouses, providing a rare example of a settlement and associated cemetery of this period (Hart *et al.* 2021). Further Middle Bronze Age features at Cleevelands, also broadly contemporary with the settlement and cemetery based on radiocarbon dating, were four substantial pits, at least some of which had been lined with timber and wattle, and one of which contained a log ladder as well as a wooden scutching knife (a tool used in flax retting) and a small container made of bark. There was no evidence that the pits had contained water and their functions were unclear, but possible use for ritual purposes was suggested based on the deposition of unusual items including a gold strip within the pits. At some 2.4m deep, these pits were very different to the two possible Middle Bronze Age pits found at the current site; if these two pits were Middle Bronze Age features, their functions remain unclear.

Late Iron Age to Roman

8.8. Trackway 1 and Ditch 4 are only very broadly dated to the Late Iron Age to Roman period based on analogy with the numerous ditches of those periods found both at Cleevelands (Hart *et al.* 2021) and Stoke Road (CA 2023). The alignments of the ditches at all three sites are broadly consistent, based on a north-east/south-west axis, and the trackway from the current site may be comparable to one at Cleevelands which extended from a densely utilised area located on a sandy gravel spread towards open grazing based on the clays to the north, alongside the Dean Brook. A similar function for the trackway at the current site might be suggested, allowing the

movement of livestock between fields. Some of the other undated linear features on the current site may have been field boundaries or parts of small enclosures, such as corrals.

Post-medieval

8.9. The straight characteristics of the furrows are suggestive of post-medieval dating. The animal deposit seems to indicate the careful burial of a well-cared for donkey or pony which displayed little evidence for having been worked hard, and was perhaps a pet or child's mount rather than a working animal, or was perhaps kept on the allotments with only occasional use as a working animal.

9. FURTHER WORK

9.1. The site is of local interest, adding to knowledge about the archaeology of Bishops Cleeve to a limited degree. The identification of at least two Neolithic pits provides evidence of early activity in the locality, but the difficulties of dating most of the features, discussed at various points in this report, hinders a precise understanding of the Period 2 and 3 features. The site will be published as a short note in the Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

10. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Liam Wilson, assisted by Nathan Chinchen, Gary Baddely, Amy Evans and Beth Frangleton. This report was written by Liam Wilson and Jonathan Hart. The finds reports were written by Claire Collier, Ed McSloy and Jacky Sommerville, the animal bone report by Matilda Holmes and the charred plant remains report by Charlotte Molloy. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Steve Sheldon and the post-excavation work was managed for CA by Andrew Pearson.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Fill of	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Period	Feature label
1003	fill	1004	single fill of ditch, yellow grey silt sand			U	Ditch 5
1004	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned straight to rounded sides, rounded base	0.8	0.15	U	Ditch 5
1005	fill	1006	single fill of ditch, light grey yellow sand			U	Ditch 5
1006	cut		cut of linear ditch , SSW-NNE aligned, straight to slightly rounded sides, truncated base	0.25	0.1	U	Ditch 5
1007	fill	1008	single fill of ditch, light yellow brown to yellow grey silt sand			U	Ditch 5
1008	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, straight sides, rounded base	0.55	0.2	U	Ditch 5
1009	fill	1010	single fill of ditch, brown yellow silt sand			U	Ditch 5
1010	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned straight sides, rounded base	0.5	0.05	U	Ditch 5
1011	fill	1012	single fill of ditch, light yellow brown to grey brown sand silt			U	Ditch 5
1012	cut		cut of linear ditch, WSW-ENE aligned, slightly rounded sides, rounded base	0.2	0.1	U	Ditch 5
1013	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderately sloped sides, rounded sides	0.65	0.2	U	Ditch 6
1014	fill	1013	single fill of ditch, brown grey sand silt			U	Ditch 6
1015	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderately sloped rounded sides, rounded base	0.3	0.1	U	Ditch 6
1016	fill	1015	single fill of ditch, brown grey sand clay			U	Ditch 6
1017	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderately sloped straight sides, rounded base	0.55	0.15	U	Ditch 6
1018	fill	1017	single fill of ditch, yellow brown, clay sand			U	Ditch 6
1019	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, moderately sloped rounded sides, rounded base	0.67	0.15	U	Ditch 7
1020	fill	1019	single fill of ditch, yellow grey clay sand			U	Ditch 7
1021	cut		cut of linear ditch, moderately sloped straight sides, rounded base	0.3	0.15	U	Ditch 6
1022	fill	1021	single fill of ditch, grey brown clay sand			U	Ditch 6
1023	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, moderately sloped sides, rounded base	0.3	0.15	U	Ditch 7
1024	fill	1023	single fill of ditch, yellow grey clay sand			U	Ditch 7
1025	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, moderately sloped stepped sides, rounded sides	0.85	0.25	U	Ditch 7
1026	fill	1025	single fill of ditch, yellow grey clay sand			U	Ditch 7

Context	Type	Fill of	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Period	Feature label
1027	cut		Furrow, E-W aligned, gently sloped straight sides, flat base	0.5	0.1	4	
1028	fill	1027	single fill of furrow, dark grey brown sandy silt occasional charcoal			4	
1029	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, moderately sloped rounded sides, rounded base	0.5	0.15	U	Ditch 7
1030	fill	1029	single fill of ditch, yellow grey silt sand			U	Ditch 7
1031	cut		cut of sub circular pit, moderately sloped sides, rounded base	0.6	0.1	1	
1032	fill	1031	second fill of pit, mid brown grey sandy silt, occasional charcoal			1	
1033	fill	1031	first fill of pit, mid grey silt gravel, occasional charcoal			1	
1034	fill	1035	light yellow brown to light grey brown sand clay silt			U	
1035	cut		cut of linear ditch, SE-NW, rounded sides, irregular base	0.7	0.15	U	
1036	fill	1037	single fill of ditch, brown sand silt			U	
1037	cut		cut of irregular pit, rounded sides, flat base	0.5	0.1	U	
1038	fill	1040	fill of pit, mid to dark brown grey, sand silt, 1% charcoal inclusions			4	
1039	deposit	1040	skeleton - animal			4	
1040	cut		cut of rectangular pit, straight 70 degree sloping NE side, 10-20 degrees other sides, flat base	0.8	0.1	4	
1041	cut		cut of sub circular ditch, gently sloped rounded sides, flat base	0.4	0.05	U	
1042	fill	1041	single fill of pit, mid brown grey clay			U	
1043	cut		cut of sub circular pit, steeply sloped straight sides, flat base	1.2	0.3	U	
1044	fill	1043	single fill of pit, yellow grey, clay sand			U	
1045	cut		cut of oval pit, moderately sloped rounded SE side, vertical straight NW side, flat base	0.85	0.25	1	
1046	fill	1045	first fill of pit, dark black brown grey, sand silt, 50% charcoal			1	
1047	fill	1045	second fill of pit, mid grey-brown sand silt, occasional charcoal			1	
1048	cut		cut of linear trackway, N-S aligned moderately sloped straight sides, rounded base	0.55	0.2	3	Ditch 3
1049	fill	1048	single fill of trackway, mid grey brown sand clay			3	Ditch 3
1050	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderately sloped stepped sides, rounded base	2.15	0.5	2	Ditch 1
1051	fill	1050	first fill of ditch, light grey yellow sand silt			2	Ditch 1
1052	fill	1050	second fill of ditch, yellow grey clay sand			2	Ditch 1
1053	fill	1050	third fill of ditch, yellow brown sand silt			2	Ditch 1
1054	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, moderately sloped	1.45	0.6	3	Ditch 4

Context	Type	Fill of	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Period	Feature label
			straight SW side, steep sloped straight NE side, rounded base				
1055	fill	1054	first fill of ditch, orange brown silt sand			3	Ditch 4
1056	fill	1054	second fill of ditch, yellow brown silt sand			3	Ditch 4
1057	fill	1054	third fill of ditch, grey brown clay sand			3	Ditch 4
1058	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, moderate straight sides, flat base	1.05	0.2	3	Ditch 4
1059	fill	1058	single fill of ditch, grey brown clay sand,			3	Ditch 4
1060	fill	1062	second fill of ditch, grey brown silt sand			3	Ditch 4
1061	fill	1062	first fill of ditch, light yellow brown sand silt clay, 2% stone inclusions			3	Ditch 4
1062	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, moderate straight sides, rounded base	1.8	0.5	3	Ditch 4
1063	fill	1065	second fill of ditch, grey brown silt clay			3	
1064	fill	1065	first fill of ditch, light brown yellow sand silt clay			3	
1065	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, straight moderately sloped sides, rounded base	1.1	0.5	3	
1066	fill	1067	single fill of ditch, grey brown silt clay			3	Ditch 4
1067	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, truncated sides, flat base	0.7	0.25	3	Ditch 4
1068	fill	1069	single fill of ditch, brown yellow silt clay			2	
1069	cut		cut of irregular pit, shallow sloped irregular sides, slightly concave base	0.8	1.2	2	
1070	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, steep straight sides, rounded base			3	Ditch 2
1071	fill	1070	single fill of ditch, grey brown sand silt			3	Ditch 2
1072	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderately sloped straight sides, rounded base	0.4	0.1	3	Ditch 2
1073	fill	1072	single fill of ditch, grey brown sand silt			3	Ditch 2
1074	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, steep sloped straight sides, rounded base	5.5	0.25	3	Ditch 3
1075	fill	1074	single fill of ditch, grey brown sand silt			3	Ditch 3
1076	fill	1077	single fill of ditch, brown grey silt clay			3	Ditch 4
1077	cut		cut of ditch terminus, moderately sloped rounded sides, flat base	0.95	0.15	3	Ditch 4
1078	fill	1080	second fill of ditch, grey brown silt clay			3	Ditch 4
1079	fill	1080	first fill of ditch, grey sand clay silt			3	Ditch 4

Context	Type	Fill of	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Period	Feature label
1080	cut		cut of linear ditch, moderately sloped, straight sides, rounded base	1.55	0.45	3	Ditch 4
1081	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderately sloped rounded sides, flat base	0.55	0.25	3	Ditch 3
1082	fill	1081	single fill of ditch, brown orange, silt sand			3	Ditch 3
1083	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, steep straight sides, V-shaped base	0.6	0.3	3	Ditch 3
1084	fill	1083	single fill of ditch, brown orange, silt sand			3	Ditch 3
1085	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, gently sloped rounded sides, U shaped base	0.3	0.05	3	Ditch 2
1086	fill	1085	single full of ditch, grey orange clay sand			3	Ditch 2
1087	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderate straight sides, U shaped base	0.4	0.1	3	Ditch 2
1088	fill	1087	single fill of ditch, orange brown, clay sand			3	Ditch 2
1089	cut		cut of sub circular pit, gently sloped, straight sides, flat base	0.95	0.3	2	
1090	fill	1089	single fill of ditch, brown grey, clay sand			2	
1091	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, moderate sides, rounded base	0.7	0.3	2	Ditch 1
1092	fill	1091	single fill of ditch, grey brown sand silt			2	Ditch 1
1093	cut		cut of sub circular pit, steep vertical steep sides, flat base	2.1	0.55	2	
1094	fill	1093	first fill of pit, dark orange grey, sand silt			2	
1095	fill	1093	second fill of pit, brown grey, clay sand			2	
1096	cut		cut of sub circular pit, moderately sloped, straight sides, flat base	1.35	0.3	2	
1097	fill	1096	single fill of pit, grey orange clay sand			2	
1098	cut		cut of sub circular pit, steep sloped rounded sides, flat base	0.4	0.4	2	
1099	fill	1098	single fill of pit, orange grey silt sand			2	
1100	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, straight moderately sloped sides, V shaped base	0.5	0.15	3	Ditch 3
1101	fill	1100	single fill of ditch, grey orange, clay sand			3	Ditch 3
1102	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderate straight sides, flat base	0.45	0.1	3	Ditch 3
1103	fill	1012	single fill of ditch, orange, clay sand			3	Ditch 3
1104	cut		cut of oval ditch, steep sided, rounded base	1	0.5	U	
1105	fill	1104	second fill of pit, dark blue, grey, silt sand, occasional charcoal			U	

Context	Type	Fill of	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Period	Feature label
1106	fill	1104	first fill of pit, mid brown yellow, clay silty sand, occasional charcoal			U	
1107	fill	1109	second fill of ditch, brown grey, silt clay			3	Ditch 4
1108	fill	1109	first fill of ditch, yellow brown sand clay			3	Ditch 4
1109	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, moderate sides, rounded base	1.35		3	Ditch 4
1110	fill	1112	second fill of pit, light brown grey silt clay, no inclusions			3	Ditch 4
1111	fill	1112	first fill of pit, light brown yellow sand clay, no inclusions			3	Ditch 4
1112	cut		cut of oval pit, moderately sloped straight sides, rounded base	0.65	0.35	3	Ditch 4
1113	fill	1115	second fill of ditch, brown grey silt clay			3	Ditch 4
1114	fill	1115	first fill of ditch, brown yellow sand clay			3	Ditch 4
1115	cut		cut of ditch terminus, moderately sloped rounded sides, rounded irregular base	1.4	0.35	3	Ditch 4
1116	fill	1118	second fill of ditch, brown grey silt clay			3	Ditch 4
1117	fill	1118	first fill of ditch, light yellow grey with yellow brown silt sand clay			3	Ditch 4
1118	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, shallow sloped straight sides, flat base	0.8	0.3	3	Ditch 4
1119	cut		cut of oval pit, moderately sloped straight sides, rounded base	0.95	0.25	U	
1120	fill	1119	single fill of pit, mid yellow grey sand silt			U	
1121	cut		cut of oval pit, moderately sloped straight sides, rounded base	0.5	0.15	U	
1122	fill	1121	single fill of ditch, dark brown grey with light yellow pink clay sand, 70% burnt stone inclusions			U	
1123	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderate sides, rounded base	0.3	0.2	3	Ditch 3
1124	fill	1123	single fill of ditch, mid grey brown			3	Ditch 3
1125	cut		cut of ditch, NW-SE aligned, moderately sloped rounded sides, flat base	1	0.1	2	Ditch 1
1126	fill	1125	single fill of ditch, light mid brown grey with yellow silt clay			2	Ditch 1
1127	cut		cut of ditch, NW-SE aligned, moderately sloped rounded sides, flat base	1.8	0.35	2	Ditch 1
1128	fill	1127	first fill of ditch, light grey yellow sand silt			2	Ditch 1
1129	fill	1127	second fill of ditch, light mid brown grey with yellow silt clay			2	Ditch 1
1130	cut		cut of irregular pit, moderately sloped sides, flat irregular base	0.7	0.2	U	

Context	Type	Fill of	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Period	Feature label
1131	fill	1130	single fill of pit, mid brown grey silt clay			U	
1132	fill	1133	single fill of ditch, yellow grey silt clay			3	
1133	cut		cut of linear ditch, W-E aligned, shallow sloped rounded sides, flat base	0.55	0.05	3	
1134	cut		cut of oval pit, shallow sloped sides, flat base	0.4	0.1	U	
1135	fill	1134	single fill of pit, mid grey brown silt sand			U	
1136	cut		cut of sub circular pit, steep sides, flat base	0.4	0.25	2	Roundhouse 1
1137	fill	1136	first fill of pit, brown orange, clay sand			2	Roundhouse 1
1138	fill	1136	second fill of pit, mid grey orange silt sand, 1% charcoal inclusions			2	Roundhouse 1
1139	cut		cut of sub circular pit, moderate to steeply sloped straight sides, rounded base	0.45	0.25	2	Roundhouse 1
1140	fill	1139	single fill of pit, orange grey sand silt			2	Roundhouse 1
1141	cut		cut of sub circular pit, moderately sloped straight sides, rounded base	0.6	0.15	2	Roundhouse 1
1142	fill	1141	single fill of pit, dark orange grey sand clay, no inclusions			2	Roundhouse 1
1143	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, steep stepped sides, rounded base	1.5	0.5	3	Ditch 4
1144	fill	1143	third fill of ditch, dark blue grey silt sand clay			3	Ditch 4
1145	fill	1143	second fill of ditch, yellow grey silt sand			3	Ditch 4
1146	fill	1143	third fill of ditch, mid yellow grey silt sand			3	Ditch 4
1147	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, steep sides, rounded base	1.55	0.25	2	Ditch 1
1148	fill	1147	second fill of ditch, dark blue grey silt sand clay			2	Ditch 1
1149	fill	1147	first fill of ditch, grey yellow clay silt sand			2	Ditch 1
1150	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderately sloped sides, rounded base	0.95	0.25	3	Ditch 4
1151	fill	1150	single fill of ditch, grey brown clay sand			3	Ditch 4
1152	cut		cut of oval pit, moderately sloped sides, flat base	1.2	0.1	2	
1153	fill	1152	single fill of pit, dark blue grey sand silt			2	
1154	cut		cut of sub ovular pit, moderately sloped sides, flat base	0.65	0.1	2	
1155	fill	1154	single fill of pit, dark blue grey sand clay			2	
1156	fill	1157	single fill of ditch, light grey brown silt clay			3	Ditch 4
1157	cut		cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, moderately sloped sides, base not exposed	0.6	0.3	3	Ditch 4

Context	Type	Fill of	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Period	Feature label
1158	cut		cut of oval pit, moderately sloped rounded sides, rounded base	0.6	0.2	U	
1159	fill	1158	single fill of pit, mid grey brown sand clay			U	
1160	cut		cut of oval pit, moderately sloped rounded sides, rounded base	0.55	0.15	U	
1161	fill	1160	single fill of pit, mid grey brown sand clay			U	
1162	cut		cut of sub circular PH, moderately sloped rounded sides, rounded base	0.4	0.1	2	Roundhouse 1
1163	fill	1162	single fill of PH, orange grey sand clay			2	Roundhouse 1
1164	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderately sloped straight sides, rounded base	1.5	0.1	3	Ditch 2
1165	fill	1164	single fill of ditch, grey brown clay sand			3	Ditch 2
1166	cut		cut of sub circular pit, moderately sloped straight sides, rounded base	0.4	0.15	U	
1167	fill	1166	single fill of pit, mid orange grey sand silt		2.1	U	
1168	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderately sloped straight sides, rounded base	0.2	0.1	3	Ditch 2
1169	fill	1168	single fill of ditch, grey brown clay sand			3	Ditch 2
1170	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderately sloped E side, shallowly sloped SW side, rounded base	0.55	0.2	3	Ditch 4
1171	fill	1170	first fill of ditch, yellow brown silt clay			3	Ditch 4
1172	fill	1170	second fill of ditch, grey brown sand silt			3	Ditch 4
1173	cut		cut of linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderately sloped sides, rounded base	1	0.3	3	Ditch 4
1174	fill	1173	first fill of ditch, light yellow grey sand clay silt, 20% stone			3	Ditch 4
1175	fill	1173	second fill of ditch, yellow brown silt clay			3	Ditch 4
1176	fill	1173	third fill of ditch, light brown grey sand silt			3	Ditch 4

APPENDIX B: THE LITHICS

By Jacky Sommerville

Introduction and methodology

A total of 35 worked flints (179g) were retrieved via the hand-excavation and bulk soil sampling of Period 1 (Early Neolithic) pits 1031 and 1045 during the evaluation and excavation. The artefacts were recorded according to broad debitage/artefact type as defined by Butler (2005) and catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Access database (Table B1), which forms part of the archive. Attributes recorded include raw material and cortex type, dimensions, and presence/degree of breakage, burning, edge damage (microflaking) and cortication, which is a white or blueish surface discoloration resulting from soil conditions (Shepherd 1972, 109).

Raw material and condition

The raw material was recorded as fine- or moderately fine-grained. Cortex is present on 11 items and is chalky on ten of these and abraded on one. This suggests the exploitation of mainly primary sources such as chalk or clay with flints. However, the nearest chalk geology (of the Grey Chalk Subgroup) is 53km to the south-east (BGS 2023), so the raw material must have been imported. The lithics are mostly in good condition, with moderate edge damage recorded on only two flints, and slight or no edge damage recorded on the rest. The degree of breakage is high, at 60% (21 flints) and seven flints (20%) are burnt. All but four flints are corticated (it could not be discerned on three, due to burning) and this is recorded as moderate or heavy on 26 items (74%).

Range and variety

Primary technology

Debitage totals 30 items, of which six (20%) are blade/bladelets (Table B1). Blades are debitage items which are at least twice as long as they are wide and which were produced using deliberate blade technology, as evidenced by the dorsal scar pattern: bladelets are blades measuring <12mm wide. Blade technology is a feature of Mesolithic and Early Neolithic flintworking and this proportion of 20% falls within the range of what would be expected in an Early Neolithic assemblage (Ford 1987, 79, table 2), although the sample size is very small. Four of the flakes (17%) displayed features indicating removal with a soft hammer, a knapping strategy used during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods. A fragmentary core rejuvenation flake, retrieved from fill 1046 of pit 1045, also represents flintworking technology employed during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods.

Secondary technology

The assemblage includes four retouched tools (Table B1), all of which were retrieved from basal fill 1046 of pit 1045. The retouched flake and miscellaneous retouched item are not chronologically diagnostic. Microdenticulates were in use until the Bronze Age (Saville 2002, 96), although they are most common in Mesolithic and Early Neolithic assemblages (Pitts and Jacobi 1979, 173). One of these examples (Fig. 10) was made using a flake blank and features extremely fine serrations along the concave distal half of the right ventral edge and silica gloss on the reverse. The left ventral edge also shows indications of having been used. The other microdenticulate is a very small proximal fragment (0.2g) and it is not possible to discern whether the blank used is a flake, blade or bladelet. This one also displays extremely fine serrations, in this case along the left ventral edge. Such tools are thought to have been used for plant processing (Juel Jensen 1994), which is considered to be a domestic activity.

Illustration catalogue

Fig. 10, 1 Period 1 pit 1045, fill 1046. Microdenticulate

Discussion

Period 1 pits 1031 and 1045 add to the number of known pits or pit groups of Early Neolithic date in this part of Gloucestershire which have produced Early Neolithic lithics. In most cases, the flints have been associated with Early Neolithic pottery and the dating has been confirmed by radiocarbon assay. Other such sites include Greet Road, Winchcombe, 7km to the east (Simmonds and Welsh 2016, 162), Winstone 2, Winstone, 18km to the south (Sommerville 2016, 28–30), Park Corner, Duntisbourne Rouse, 21km to the south (ibid., 27–8) and Duntisbourne Grove, 21km to the south (Lupton 1999, 19–21).

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Table B1: Breakdown of lithic assemblage from Period 1 pits 1031 and 1045 (weight in grams)

Type	Pit 1031		Pit 1045		Pit 1045			
	Fill 1031 (upper)		Fill 1046 (basal)		Fill 1047 (upper)		Total	
	Count	Weight	Count	Weight	Count	Weight	Count	Weight
Primary technology								
Blade			4	7	1	5	5	12
Bladelet			1	0.4			1	0.4
Core/core rejuvenation flake			1	23			1	23
Flake	9	63.9	9	25.9	6	47.2	24	137
Secondary technology								
Microdenticulate			2	3.2			2	3.2
Miscellaneous retouched			1	0.4			1	0.4
Retouched flake			1	3			1	3
Total	**9**	**63.9**	**19**	**62.9**	**7**	**52.2**	**35**	**179**

APPENDIX C: THE EARLY NEOLITHIC POTTERY

By E. R. McSloy

The small pottery assemblage, amounting to 113 sherds, 503g, derived from the fills of pits 1031 and 1045. Almost all was recovered by hand, with two sherds (5g) coming from a bulk soil sample taken from pit 1045 lower fill 1046. Pit 1031 was initially excavated as part of the trench evaluation in 2020, this producing 12 sherds (47g). The remainder was recovered during the full excavation of pit 1045, which was exposed in the 2022 excavation. A concentration of some 49 sherds (293g) was identified in the upper fill 1047 of the pit, close to the edge of the feature, which was labelled Registered artefact (Ra.) 3).

The pottery has been recorded to the standards recommended for archaeological material (Barclay *et al*. 2016). For all material, this has included quantification by sherd count and weight per fabric and recording of vessel form/rim morphology, decoration, sherd thickness and evidence for vessel use/secondary adaptation. Although there were variations in colour, all the pottery occurred in the same fabric, which is described below. Rim sherds from a minimum of five vessels were identified. Most or all the sherds assigned to Ra. 3 were from the same vessel (Fig. 11, no. 4), although it was not complete. The assemblage overall is heavily fragmented, with some breakage occurring at the time of, or following, recovery. Its fragility is due largely to the leaching of calcareous inclusions, apparent from voids to the sherd surfaces and breaks. Poor preservation of sherd surfaces may have resulted in the removal of burnish or other surface treatments.

Fabric

A single fabric was defined, though with a fairly high degree of variation in its firing/colouration from light brown/buff to reddish brown and dark grey. Clearly the abundant plate-like voids which characterise the fabric are as the result of chemical 'leaching' of fossil shell inclusions. Very probably the shell inclusions were derived from the local Jurassic formations. A comparable fossil shell or calcareous potting tradition appears dominant for the Neolithic period from across the north Cotswolds area.

VES Vesicular fabric. Soft with smooth feel and irregular/laminated fracture. Colour variable; commonly with reddish brown exterior surface, darker grey brown interior surface and core. Contains common plate-like or striated voids (leached fossil shell) 0.5–2mm. May also contain sparse, sub-rounded clay pellets 0.5–0.7mm). Non-micaceous. 113 sherds; 503g.

Form

Rim sherds from a minimum five vessels were recorded, all from pit 1045, are described (Fig. 11, nos 1–5). Although in no instance could the vessel form be fully reconstructed, the group can with some certainty be ascribed to a (round-bottomed) plain bowl tradition, the vessels with simple, open/neutral and inflected profiles and the rims simple or thickened. Carinated profiles are notable by their absence. There is no clear evidence for tooled decoration or of burnishing/smoothing although poor surface survival may have removed traces of the latter. A fingernail impression below the rim of vessel (Fig. 11, no. 4) has almost certainly been made when the rim was pinched out. Faint horizontal lines to the rim interior of vessel P3 may similarly have resulted from manufacture and the smoothing out of the rim.

Vessel wall thickness, where measurable, was relatively consistent within the 7–8mm (43 sherds) and 9–10mm (37 sherds) ranges. For the three vessels where rim diameter could be estimated, this was in the 200–240mm range.

Stylistic affinities/dating

The region in which the site lies is to the north of that which is the subject of a stylistic and chronological appraisal of earlier Neolithic ceramics (Cleal 2006). Some of the region's more significant Neolithic assemblages remain unpublished in full, although moderately large groups from within 10–15km of Bishops Cleeve including from The Peak, near Birdlip (Darvill *et al.* 2011) and, to a lesser degree, the Hazelton North long cairn (Smith and Darvill 1990), have produced analogous material. The allotments site group, albeit significantly smaller, demonstrates clear similarities of vessel form with the Birdlip assemblage and to the published sample of Early Neolithic pottery from Crickley Hill (Dixon 1971, fig. 8). There is less correspondence with the pre-barrow phase pottery from Hazelton North, this group characterised by carinated bowl forms, probably of earlier dating. The Birdlip and Crickley Hill groups are from enclosures associated with settlement and belong to a 'developed' Early Neolithic style current *c.* 3650–3350 BC (Cleal 2004, 181–182) mainly composed of open or closed, slack-sided or S-shaped vessels. Vessels in this tradition can feature impressed or tooled decoration, though there are indications that this may be less prevalent among Cotswolds groups than elsewhere.

The precise nature of the activity represented by the Allotments site group is unclear. Comparable isolated or small clusters of features have been recorded elsewhere, for example from along the A419/417 road scheme in the area of Birdlip and Duntisbourne Grove (Mudd *et al.* 1999, 17–25). They may represent the remnants of more substantive domestic activity, largely removed by later agriculture or other processes. The pottery from pits 1031 and 1045 most likely represents utilitarian pottery usable for a variety of activities which might include the preparation, serving or storage of food. The concentration of sherds in the upper fill (Ra. 3) hints at structured deposition in evidence elsewhere in the period, although normal discard of domestic waste is as likely.

Illustration Catalogue (Fig. 11)

1 Fabric VES. Buff/light brown throughout. Neutral/convex profiled bowl with rolled simple rim. Approx. diam. 240mm. Pit 1045 primary fill 1046.
2 Fabric VES. Light brown with pinkish core. Open(?) profiled bowl with irregular, thickened rim. Approx. diam. 230mm. Pit 1045 primary fill 1046.
3 Fabric VES. Reddish brown. Vessel of uncertain form; upright/slightly everted rim and internal bevel. Indistinct horizontal decoration or smoothing lines to bevel. Approx. diam. 230mm. Pit 1045 primary fill 1046.
4 Fabric VES. Reddish brown exterior surface and grey-brown core/interior. Inflected bowl, with upright, simple rim Approx. diam. 200mm. Pit 1045 primary fill 1046 and upper fill 1047 (Ra. 3).
5 Fabric VES. Brown exterior with dark grey core/interior. Vessel of uncertain form; pulled/slightly everted rim. Pit 1045 primary fill 1046 (soil sample 2).

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APPENDIX D: THE POST-MEDIEVAL/MODERN POTTERY

By Jacky Sommerville

Two bodysherds (13g) from this date range were hand-recovered from the excavation. The pottery has been fully recorded in accordance with the current standard (Barclay *et al*. 2016). The fabric codes (in parenthesis in the text) are equated to the online Gloucester pottery type series (http://glospot.potsherd.net/table/med). A sherd of Westerwald stoneware (TF94), from fill 1028 of Period 4 (post-medieval) plough furrow 1027, is of a type imported from Germany during the late 17th to 18th centuries. The sherd of Staffordshire mottled brown-glazed ware from fill 1038 of Period 4 donkey/pony burial pit 1040, is datable to the 18th to early 19th centuries. This pottery has minimal research potential and retention is not recommended.

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APPENDIX E: THE FIRED CLAY

By Jacky Sommerville

One fragment of fired/burnt clay (8g) was hand-recovered from upper fill 1903 of Trench 19 pit 1905 during the 2020 evaluation (equating to fill 1032 of Period 1 pit 1031 of the excavation). It presents in a soft-fired sandy fabric and is orange with a black core. The fragment is amorphous and has no features which could suggest its derivation or function. The fired clay is of minimal archaeological significance and does not help to understand on-site activity or dating and retention is not recommended.

APPENDIX F: THE GLASS

By Jacky Sommerville

A fragment (104g) from the base of a dark-green wine/spirits bottle of post-medieval date was retrieved from fill 1028 of Period 4 (post-medieval) plough furrow 1027. The glass adds little to the understanding or dating of the site and retention is not recommended.

APPENDIX G: THE METAL OBJECTS

By Claire Collier

The assemblage comprises three metal items: two of iron and one of silver. The objects were recovered from Period 4 (post-medieval/modern) ditch and pit deposits. The condition of the metalwork is mixed, the extent of corrosion/fragmentation varying according to material, with the iron objects suffering the highest degrees of obscuring corrosion. The metalwork is currently stored in air-tight plastic containers with humidity control as appropriate.

The assemblage was recorded directly to an MS Access database from which Table G1 has been generated, with objects listed by material and context and defined according to registered artefact (Ra.) number, object type and function, together with a short description and measurements. The metal artefacts were examined by a specialist conservator (Karen Barker) and assessment included x-radiography to facilitate identification and clarify constructional and compositional details. The x-ray plate (no. 1) forms part of the archive. The assemblage is described below and belongs to the modern period.

Iron

Object Ras. 1 and 2 are horseshoes which were recovered from Period 4 pit 1040 (fill 1038). They are U-shaped, tapering towards the heels, measuring 22mm in width at their broadest point. The nail holes are set within a groove or 'fuller' and are arranged three/two. The outer heel features a right-angled calkin and both shoes have toe clips, a feature common to modern examples current from the later 19th century onwards.

Silver

A teaspoon was recovered from Period 4 plough furrow 1027 (fill 1028). It has four top-marked stamps on the reverse of the handle; Queen Victoria, B, lion passant and leopard's head. The date letter mark (B) indicates that the spoon was made in either 1837 or 1877 and the leopard's head is the city mark for London, England (Canada Gold 2022). The maker's mark is also stamped into the handle and features the initials S.H.D.C., that of Samuel Hayne and Dudley Cater (Antique Silver Spoons 2022). This company is known to have traded as Samuel Hayne and Co. after 1864 following the retirement of Dudley Cater (William Walter Antiques 2022). The earlier dating applicable to the hallmark (1837) is therefore probable.

References

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Canada Gold 2022 *UK and British Silver Hallmarks- A Complete Guide* https://canadagold.ca/uk-and-british-silver-hallmarks-a-complete-guide/ (accessed 04 November 2022)

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Table G1: Metal object catalogue

Context	Ra. No.	Type	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Depth (mm)	Comments
1038	1	Horseshoe	1	179	100	22	12	Tapering to heel, two/three nail holes
1038	2	Horseshoe	1	233	102	22	16	Tapering to heel, two/three nail holes
1028		Spoon	1	18	141	29	2	Queen Victoria, B, lion passant and leopard's head. S.H.D.C

APPENDIX H: THE ANIMAL BONE

By Matilda Holmes

Introduction

Animal remains were produced from two contrasting features. A few fragments came from Neolithic pit 1045 and the skeleton of a small horse or donkey came from post-medieval pit 1040. No detailed information regarding economy or diet is forthcoming, but a basic analysis is provided.

Methodology

Bones were identified using the author's reference collection; those that could not be speciated were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (micro – rat/ vole size; small – cat/ rabbit size; medium – sheep/ pig/ dog size; or large – cattle/ horse size). Tooth wear and eruption were recorded using guidelines from Grant (1982) and Payne (1973); guidelines were also used for bone fusion, metrical data (von den Driesch 1976), anatomy, side, zone (Serjeantson 1996) and any evidence of pathological changes, butchery (Lauwerier 1988) and working. The condition of bones was noted on a scale of 0–5, where 0 is fresh bone and 5, the bone is falling apart (Behrensmeyer in Lyman 1994, 355). Other taphonomic factors included the incidence of burning, gnawing, recent breakage and refitted fragments.

Neolithic pit 1045

Material was very badly preserved, but nine unidentified fragments of mammal bone were produced from context 1046, one of which was calcined. Fragments of cattle tibia and incisor could be identified.

Post-medieval pit 1040

The complete but fragmentary skeleton of an equid was recovered from context 1039. No cut marks were observed and the extremities were present, suggesting that the animal was buried intact and not butchered or skinned. A tentative identification suggests that this was a donkey rather than a small horse, based on long bone morphology (Hanot and Bochaton 2018) and biometrical data (Davis *et al.* 2008). The teeth were too worn to use for identification and imply that the animal was of considerable age when it died. Tooth heights indicate an age of at least 16 years and possibly considerably older (Levine 1982). The presence of robust canine teeth further implies a male. The animal was 1.1m tall at the withers or *c*.10.3/11 hands high.

As well as having incredibly worn teeth, several bones showed signs of pathological change consistent with advanced age such as fused carpals and fused metatarsals 3 and 4. However, despite some lipping to one or two vertebral articular surfaces, most vertebrae were in good condition, which suggests that the animal was not subject to excessive loading, either through riding or draught work. Malocclusion to the maxillary and mandibular second and third molars is typical of 'wave mouth', which is a common problem affecting older equids (Ireland *et al.* 2012).

The animal was shod and two horseshoes were recovered from the front hooves suggesting that it was occasionally worked or ridden on hard surfaces. It is not uncommon for horses to be shod in front and not on the hind feet, possibly to save on cost in lightly worked or ridden animals or to stop the feet from splitting in animals out at grass. It is also possible that all four feet were shod, but the hind shoes removed as tokens when the animal died.

In summary, it is likely that pit 1040 contains a small, male, elderly donkey or small pony that was not overworked or obviously ill-treated in life. It was buried intact, in the sole fill of a purpose-dug pit, possibly representing a well-cared for pet.

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APPENDIX I: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

By Charlotte Molloy

Introduction

Ten bulk samples recovered from ten separate features were analysed. The objective was to sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy.

Methodology

The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures, using a 250µm sieve for the recovery of the flot and a 1mm sieve for the collection of the residue. All identifiable charred plant remains from these samples were identified using a stereo-binocular microscope. The identifications follow the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals. Nomenclature for the mollusc remains follows Anderson (2005) and details of the ecological preferences of the species follow Evans (1972), Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008). The results are recorded in Table I1.

Period 1: Early Neolithic

Two samples were taken from Early Neolithic pits. Sample 2 was taken from fill 1046 of pit 1045. It contained a large number of charred hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) fragments and a moderately large number of charcoal pieces. This material appears to represent a deposit of hearth sweepings, possibly domestic in character, but the possibility of it being a deliberate structured deposit cannot be ruled out. The charred remains in this sample would be compatible with an Early Neolithic date.

Fill 1032 (sample 3) of pit 1031 (the same pit encountered in the 2020 evaluation and recorded as 1905), contained a small number of charcoal pieces.

Period 2: Middle Bronze Age

Samples 5, 6, and 7 were taken from postholes 1138, 1139, and 1141, respectively, of Roundhouse 1. All contained small quantities of charcoal pieces, Sample 5 contained a poorly preserved wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain and sample 7 contained a single fruit pip (Cf. *Prunus* sp.). Collectively, this material seems to represent settlement detritus that has become incorporated within the backfills of the sampled features. The charred plant remains are too sparse to contribute any detailed information to the understanding of any domestic or settlement activity that may be associated with Roundhouse 1.

A single sample was recovered from fill 1052 of Ditch 1 (sample 10) but contained no ecofacts and can provide no information of value to the results of the excavation.

Period 3: Late Iron Age to Roman

Sample 9, recovered from fill 1117 of Ditch 4, contained no charcoal pieces or charred plant remains. It contained a single *Discus rotundatus* (a shade loving species of mollusc). Although this quantity is unsuitable for full analysis, tentatively, the presence of this species suggests there may have been areas shaded by trees within the immediate vicinity of this ditch during the Roman period.

Undated

Fill 1034 (sample 1) was taken from undated pit 1035. It contained a moderate number of charred hazelnut shell fragments and a small number of charcoal pieces. This material is consistent with the charred plant remains recovered from pit 1045 (sample), which has been allocated to Period 1, the Early Neolithic, and it is therefore possible that pit 1035 also dates to this period.

Sample 8 and sample 4 were taken from ditch 5 and 6, respectively, both of which remain undated. No ecofacts were observed within either of the examined samples and therefore they provide no information of value to the results discussed in this report.

Discussion

The limited evidence recovered from a small number of samples supports the notion that there may have been Early Neolithic activity (perhaps transient settlement) in the vicinity of the excavation area. Sample 1 from undated pit 1035 contained charred plant remains that suggest it could also represent activity compatible with a Neolithic date. The predominance of hazelnut fragments within the assemblages has been recorded from other Neolithic deposits in Southern Britain and this dominance of hazelnut fragments and other wild food remains may be indicative of the exploitation and general reliance on these wild food resources during this period (Moffett *et al.* 1989; Stevens 2007; Robinson 2000). This material can be compared with the material of a similar date and context from Horcott Pit in Fairford (Challinor 2009), as well as the Winstone 2 and Park Corner sites on the Wormington and Sapperton Gas Pipeline project (Hart *et al.* 2016), along with Land North of Southend Lane, Newent (CA 2020).

The samples examined from other features on this site did not yield paleoenvironmental remains that made any substantial contributions to understanding the past land use and economy of the site during those phases.

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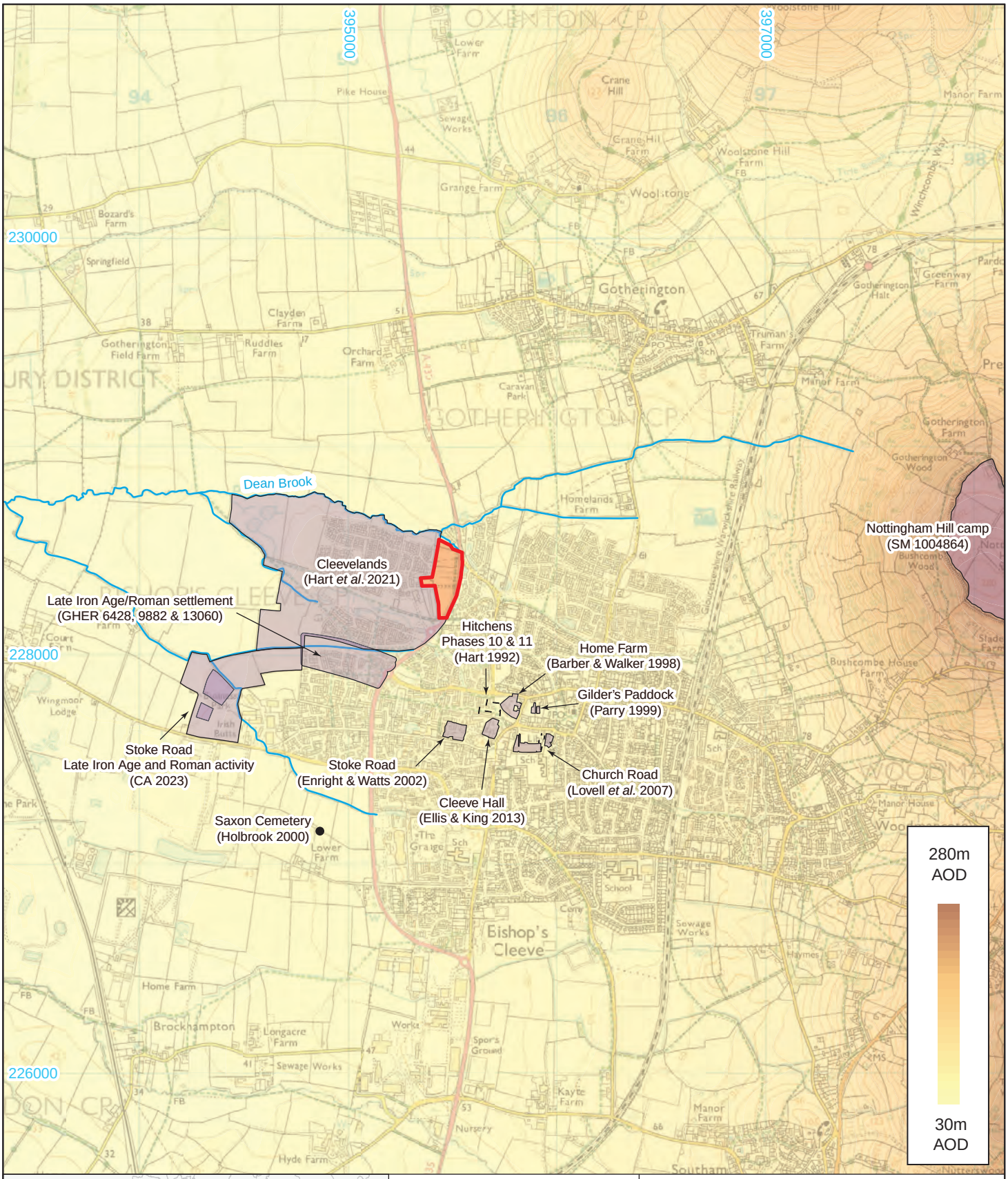
Table I1: The paleoenvironmental evidence

Feature	Ctxt	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred Other	Charred Other notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Period 1: Early Neolithic												
Pit 1045	1046	2	40	60	20	-	-	-	142	*Corylus avellana*	***/*****	Bn(1)
Pit 1031	1032	3	3	3	40	-	-	-	-	-	*/*	-
Period 2: Middle Bronze Age												
Roundhouse 1 Postholes												
1138	1138	5	10	15	80	1	-	Wheat sp.	-	-	**/***	-
1139	1140	6	10	10	70	-	-	-	-	-	**/**	-
1141	1142	7	10	50	95	-	-	-	1	*Prunus* sp.	*/**	-
Ditch 1 Cut 1050	1052	10	20	10	99	-	-	-	-	-	-/-	-
Period 3: Late Iron Age to Roman												
Ditch 4 Cut 1118	1117	9	20	10	95	-	-	-	-	-	-/-	Moll-t(2)
Undated												
Pit 1035	1034	1	20	18	90	-	-	-	136	*Corylus avellana*	*/*	-
Ditch 5 Cut 1010	1009	8	20	50	90	-	-	-	-	-	-/-	-
Ditch 6 Cut 1121	1122	4	20	25	100	-	-	-	-	-	-/-	-

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 5-19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items

APPENDIX J: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Former Nortenham Allotments, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Excavation	
Short description	Between March and April 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation of land at the former Nortenham Allotments, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire. An area amounting to 0.3ha was excavated within the site. The earliest remains comprised two pits which produced Early Neolithic pottery in the plain bowl tradition along with a small assemblage of flints. Other pits may have been contemporary but were not dated. The pits probably point to episodic occupation of this part of the Severn Vale. Occupation may also have occurred during the Middle Bronze Age when a feature interpreted as a post-built roundhouse was constructed, possibly associated with a ditch and two shallow pits. Unfortunately, all lacked dating evidence, but the roundhouse is comparable to a Middle Bronze Age example found at the nearby Cleevelands site. The pits are of unknown function. Later remains comprised ditches which lacked datable finds but which may have formed a continuation of Late Iron Age and Roman enclosures, trackways and boundaries found at the nearby Cleevelands and Stoke Road sites. The latest remains were furrows, probably of post-medieval date, and a pit containing a donkey or pony skeleton found with 19th-century horseshoes and a sherd of 18th to 19th-century pottery.	
Project dates	March-April 2022	
Project type	Archaeological Excavation	
Previous work	Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2020); Geophysical survey (BCC 2009); Evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2020)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Former Nortenham Allotments, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire	
Study area (m^2/ha)	0.3ha	
Site co-ordinates	395464 228290	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	n/a	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steve Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Liam Wilson	
MONUMENT TYPE	Early Neolithic pits, ?Bronze Age roundhouse, Iron Age/Roman field system	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	**Intended final location of archive**	**Content**
Physical	The Wilson: Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum	ceramics, animal bone, metal objects
Paper	The Wilson: Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum	Context sheets, registers, drawings
Digital	The Wilson: Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum and the Archaeology Data Service	Database, digital photos, survey data, database, reports
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2023 *Former Nortenham Allotments, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Excavation* CA typescript report **CR1083_1**		



N

Development area

Previous work

0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Former Nortenham Allotments Site, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	**HMM/AO**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1083**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**22/03/2023**	**1**
APPROVED BY	**AP**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	

a) The site, during excavation, looking south-east

b) The site, towards the Cleevelands development, looking south-west

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FIGURE TITLE

Site photographs

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1083**	*FIGURE NO.*
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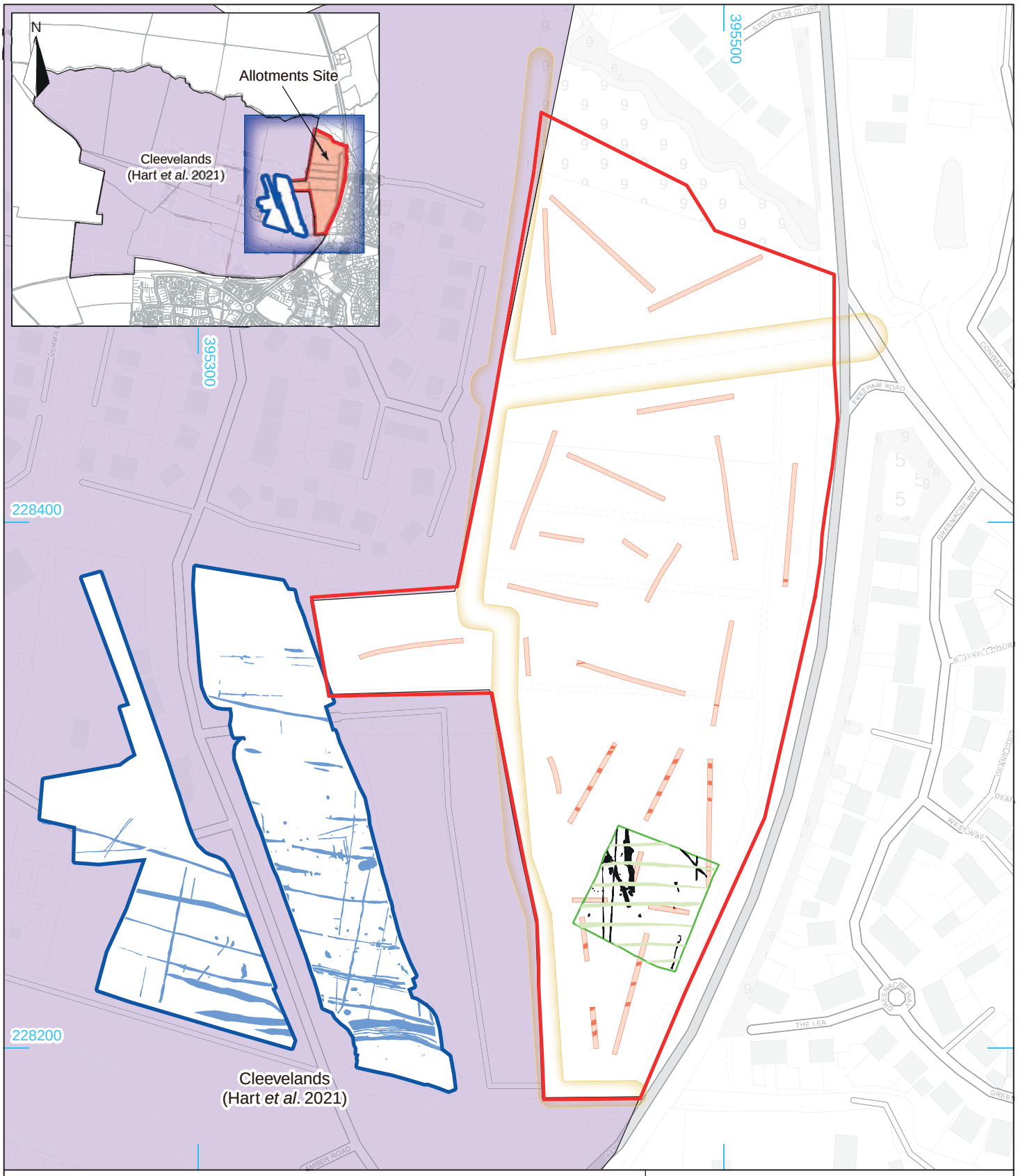

Development area (Cleevelands)

Cleevelands excavation area

Archaeological feature (Cleevelands)

Development area

Previous evaluation trench (CA 2020b)

Previous archaeological feature (CA 2020b)

Excavation area

Archaeological feature

Furrow

Constraint

N

0 1:2000 100m

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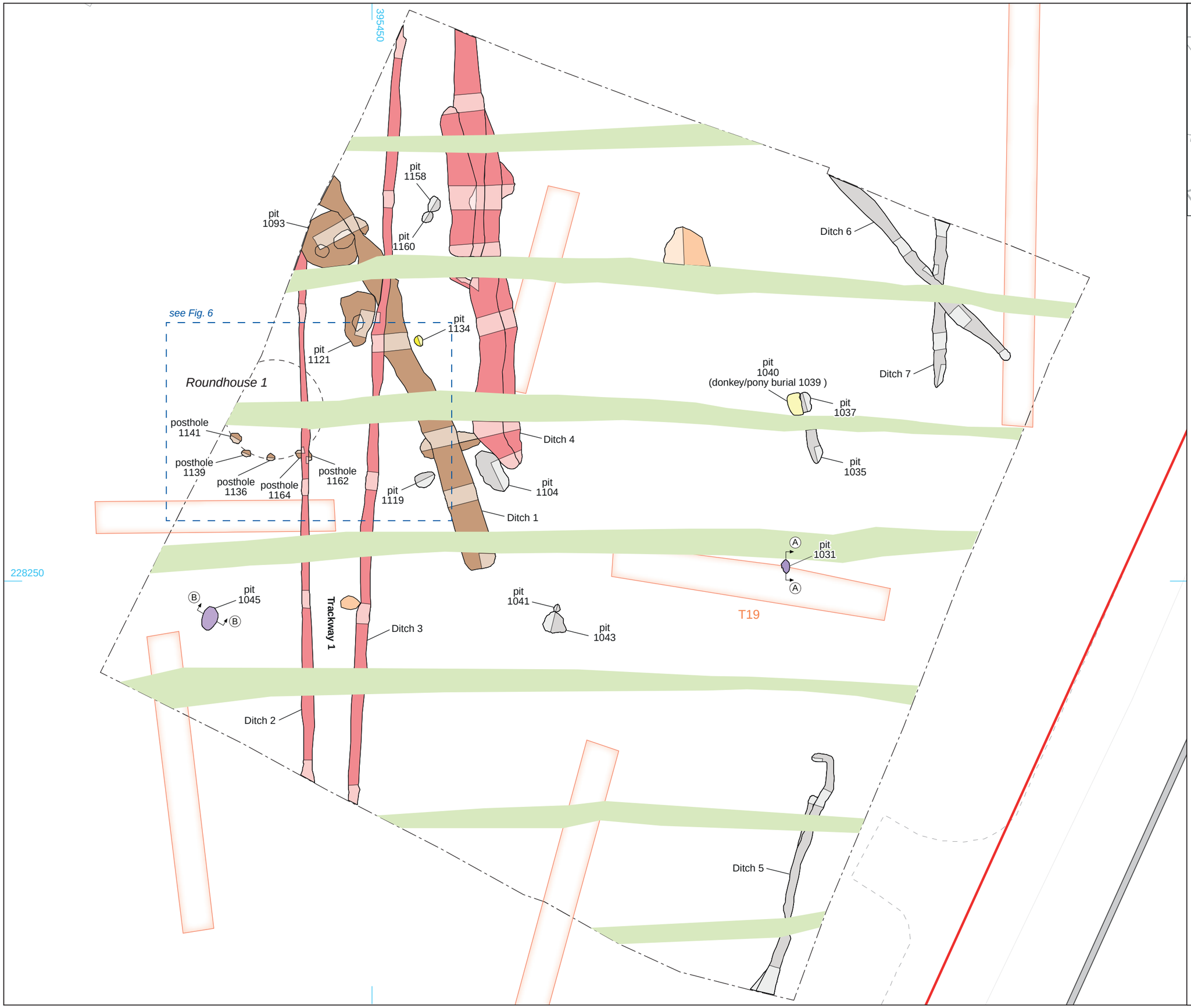
PROJECT TITLE

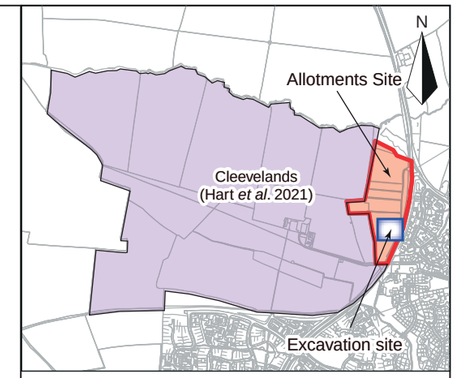
Former Nortenham Allotments Site, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

The Allotments Site evaluation and excavation areas in relation to the Cleevelands site

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR1083	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28/04/2023	3
APPROVED BY	JH	SCALE@A4	1:2000	





- Development area
- Edge of excavation
- Previous excavation trench
- Projected feature
- Section location

Phasing
(unexcavated/excavated)

- Period 1: Early Neolithic
- Period 2: Middle Bronze Age
- Period 3: Late Iron Age to Roman
- Period 4: post-medieval
- Period 4: plough furrow
- Undated
- Tree-throw hole

0 1:200 10m

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FIGURE TITLE
Phased site plan

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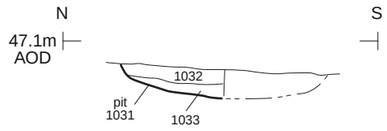
APPROVED BY	**JH**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:200**	

Section AA



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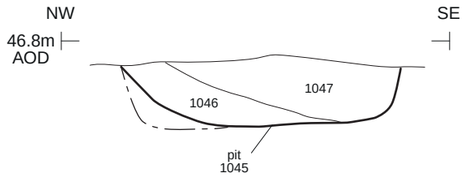

a) Pit 1031, looking east (0.2m scale)

b) Pit 1045 and Ra. 3, looking north-west (0.5m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

Former Nortenham Allotments Site, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Period 1 (Early Neolithic) pits 1031 and 1045: sections and photographs

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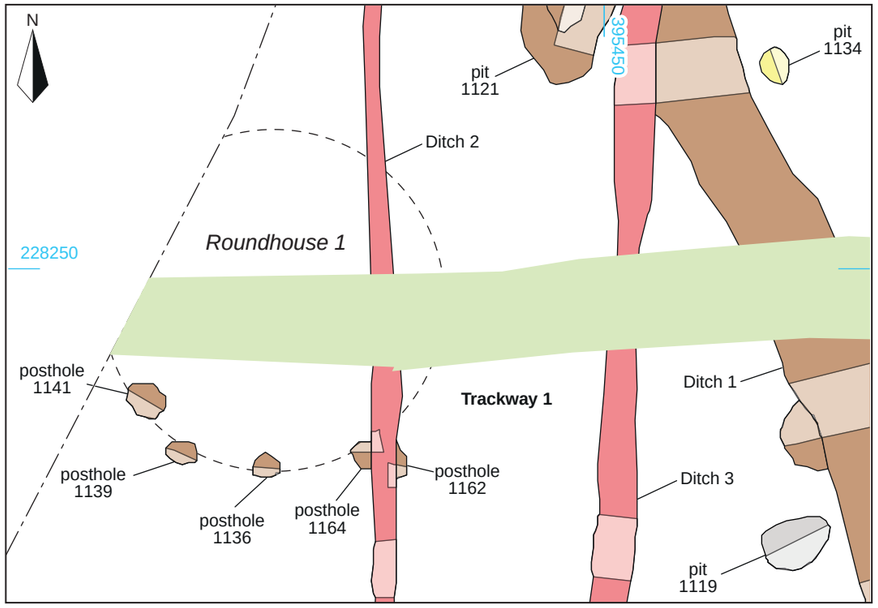


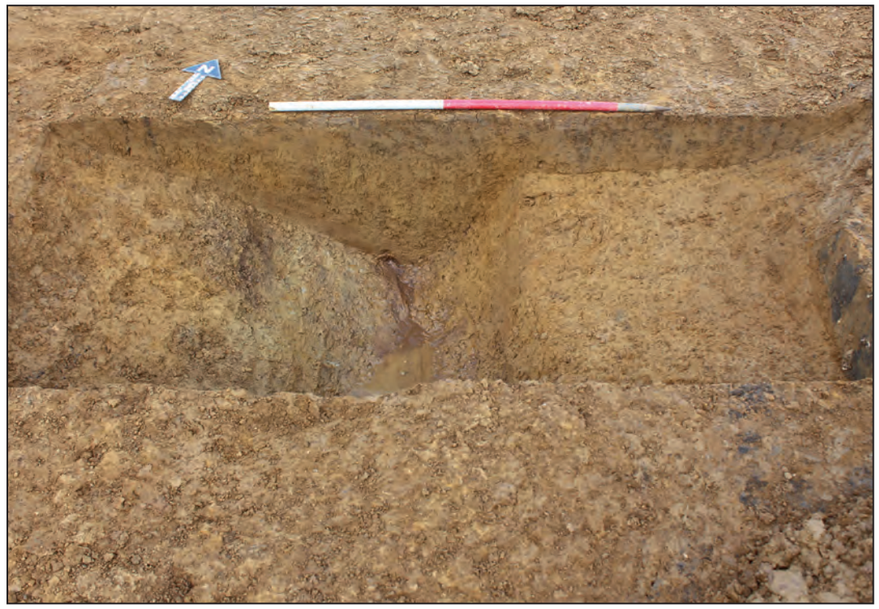
Phasing
(unexcavated/excavated)

- Edge of excavation
- Projected feature
- Period 2: Middle Bronze Age
- Period 3: Late Iron Age to Roman
- Period 4: post-medieval
- Period 4: plough furrow
- Undated

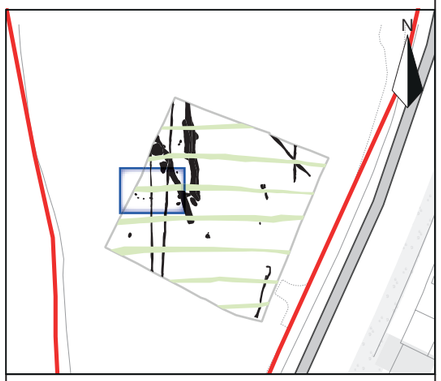
0 1:100 5m

a) Posthole 1136, looking north (0.4m scale)

b) Posthole 1139, looking north-east (0.2m scale)



c) Ditch 1, looking north-east (1m scale)



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Former Nortenham Allotments Site, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Detail plan of Period 2 Roundhouse 1 and Period 3 Trackway 1 and photographs of selected Period 2.1 postholes and Ditch 1

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1083**	*FIGURE NO.*
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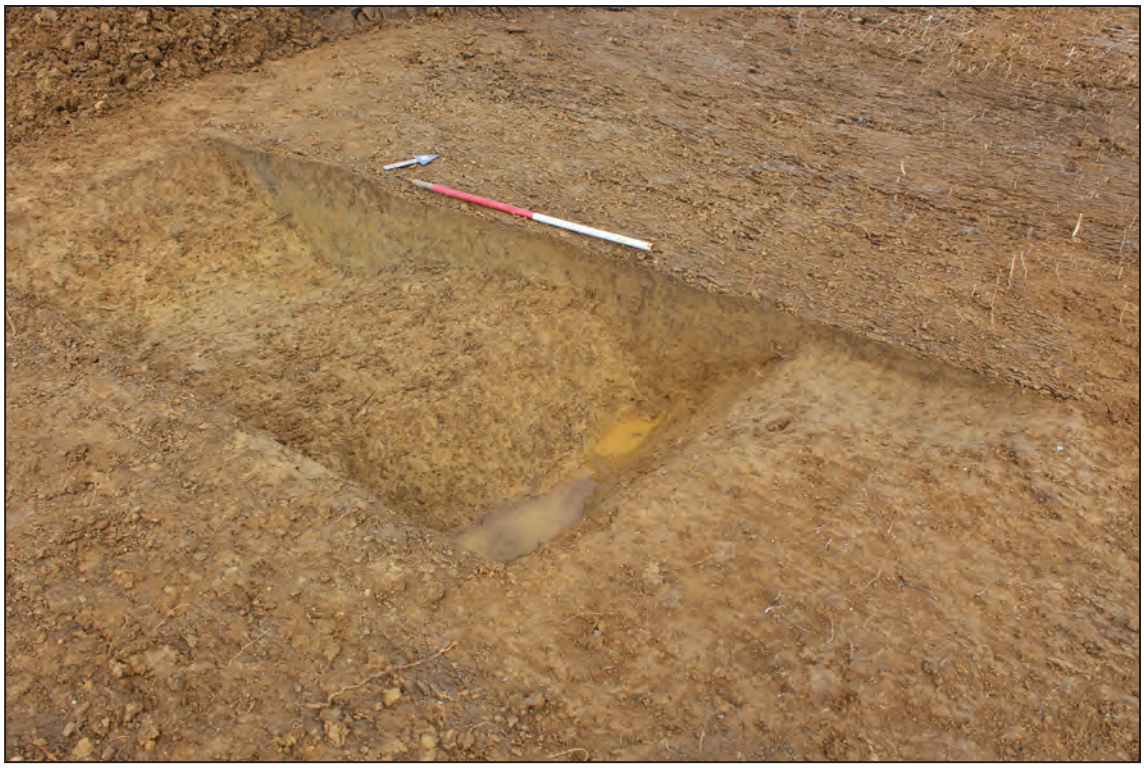

a) Period 3 Ditch 4, looking north-east (1m scale)

b) Period 4 donkey/pony burial in pit 1040, looking north-west (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

Former Nortenham Allotments Site, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Period 3 and 4: photographs

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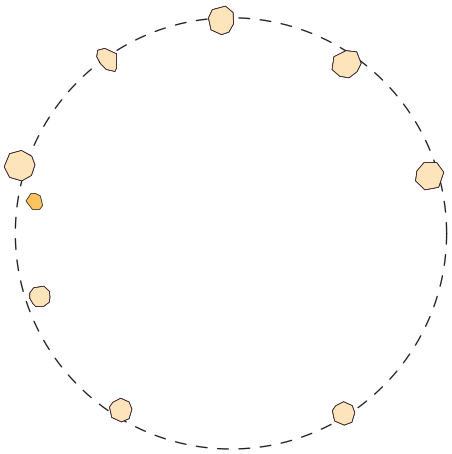
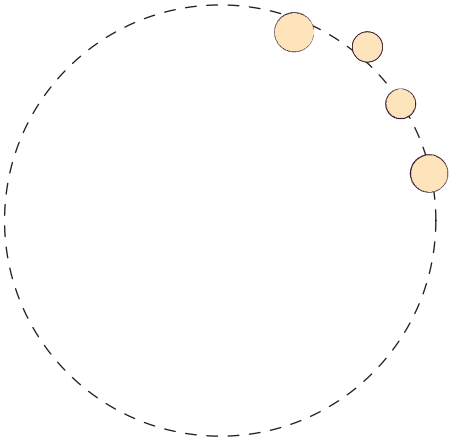
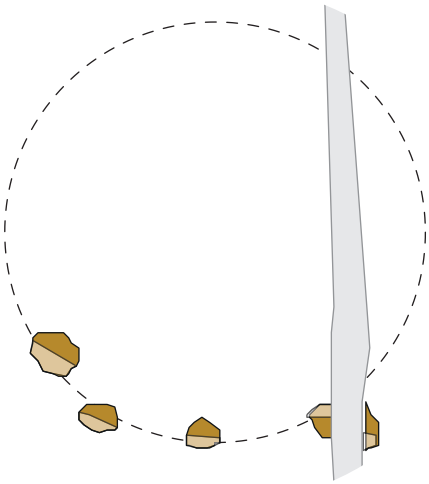


Cleevelands
Roundhouse C

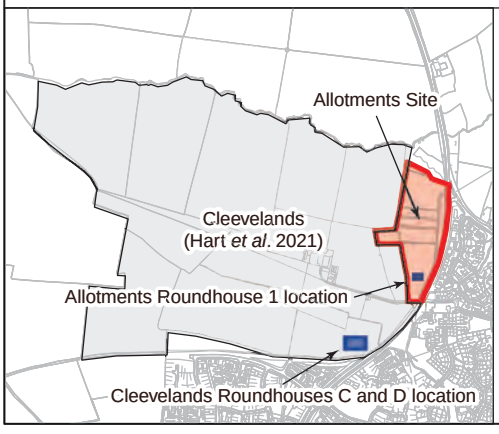


Cleevelands
Roundhouse D



Allotments
Roundhouse 1

0 1:100 5m



N

Projected feature
(unexcavated/excavated)

Middle Bronze Age
(Cleevelands Phasing)

Middle Bronze Age
(Allotments Phasing)

Other feature

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PROJECT TITLE

Former Nortenham Allotments Site, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Comparative plans of Middle Bronze Age roundhouses from Cleevelands (Hart *et al.* 2021) and the current site

DRAWN BY	**AO/HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1308**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**21/03/2023**	**8**
APPROVED BY	**AP**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:100**	

395350

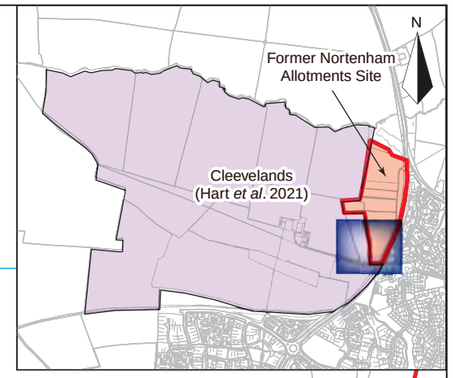
395400

395450

228300

228250

228200



Cleevelands
(Hart *et al*. 2021)

Former Nortenham
Allotments Site

Development boundary

Excavation area

Watching brief area

Cleevelands Phasing
(unexcavated/excavated)

- Middle Bronze Age
- Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition
- Early Roman
- Mid to Late Roman
- Furrow
- Undated

Allotments Phasing
(unexcavated/excavated)

- Period 1: Early Neolithic
- Period 2: Middle Bronze Age
- Period 3: Late Iron Age to Roman
- Period 4: post-medieval
- Period 4: plough furrow
- Undated
- Tree-throw hole

0 1:500 25m

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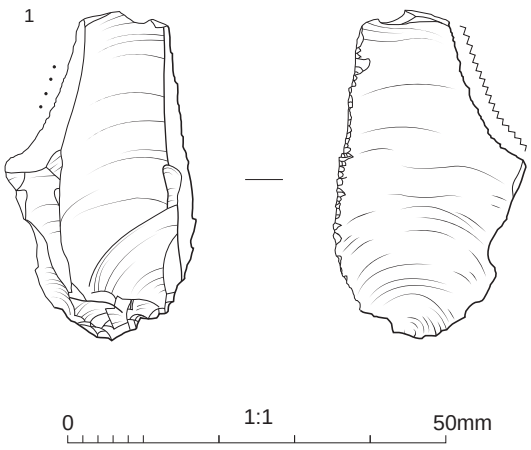
PROJECT TITLE

Former Nortenham Allotments Site, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

The Allotment site excavated features in relation to the easternmost features discovered at Cleevelands (Hart *et al.* 2021)

DRAWN BY	**AO/HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1083**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**21/03/2023**	**9**
APPROVED BY	**AP**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:500**	



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PROJECT TITLE

Former Nortenham Allotments Site, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire

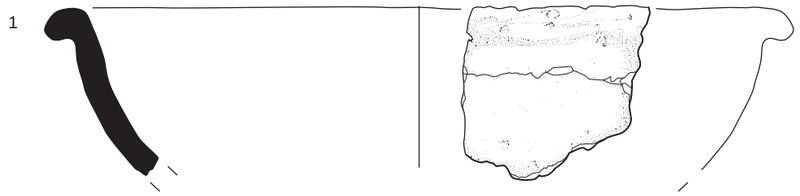
FIGURE TITLE

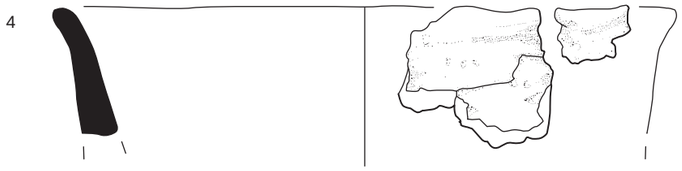
Lithics

DRAWN BY	**LZS**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1083**
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**27/04/23**
APPROVED BY	**CR**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:1**

FIGURE NO.

10





0 1:2 100mm

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PROJECT TITLE

Former Nortenham Allotments Site, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Early Neolithic pottery

DRAWN BY	**KM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1083**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**27/04/2023**	**11**
APPROVED BY	**EM**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:2**	

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