

**STONECROFT
MOUSETRAP LANE
BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

MRS EMILY CLACY

CA PROJECT: 2772
CA REPORT: 08251


DECEMBER 2008



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prepared by	Sian Reynish, Project Supervisor
date	18 December 2008
checked by	Cliff Bateman, Project Manager
date	14 January 2008
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	15 January 2008
issue	01

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	7
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	7
5. REFERENCES	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	9
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	9
APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES	10
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	11

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:500)
- Fig. 3 Trench 1: plan, section and photograph (1:20)
- Fig. 4 Trench 2: plan, section and photograph (1:20)

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Stonecroft
Location:	Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SP 1641 2104
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	15-17 December 2008
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code:	SBW 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2008 at Stonecroft, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire. Two test pits, each measuring 1.5m x 1.5m, were hand excavated.

The evaluation identified Roman deposits, including a metalled surface, and a pit from which a sherd of probable Iron Age pottery was recovered. An undated, but probable Roman wall was also recorded.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Mrs Emily Clancy at Stonecroft, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 1641 2104; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of a garage and a carer's apartment within the grounds of the current domestic property.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001); the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995); and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Mr Parry.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development site comprises rough grassed areas within the grounds of the existing property. It is bounded to the north by a dismantled railway, to the south by a pedestrian walkway and residential properties and to the east by residential properties (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 132m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as undifferentiated clays with argillaceous limestone bands from the Jurassic era (BGS 1981). This geology was observed within test pit 2.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The proposed development area lies in an area of archaeological potential. Previous work in and around Bourton-on-the-Water has revealed strong evidence of settlement or occupation from the Neolithic onwards. The current site lies within the Bourton Bridge/Lansdown area where previous archaeological investigations have identified a possible Roman *mutatio* or *mansio* (posting house) that appears to have been part of a Roman settlement or small town that developed from the 1st century

AD onwards. More recent excavation has shown the settlement extended eastwards into the Lansdown area of Bourton, with particularly high levels of activity dating from the 4th century AD (see Timby 1998, 353-83). There is also further evidence of Saxon activity around Bourton, with a number of burials and a sunken-featured building excavated by the Fosse Way close to Slaughter Bridge (ibid.).

- 1.6 Approximately 1km to the east lies Salmonsbury Camp, where excavation in the 1930s and modern surveys have revealed evidence for multiple periods of activity. In addition to the substantial Late Iron Age earthwork enclosure, evidence has been recorded for a possible Neolithic enclosure, Iron Age settlement and Roman and Saxon occupation, including Saxon burials. The distribution of Roman material between Salmonsbury and the Fosse Way would suggest at least one roadway, bordered in part by contemporary settlement, connected the two areas (ibid.).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Gloucestershire County Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two test pits, each measuring 1.5m x 1.5m, located within the footprint of the proposed new builds (see Fig. 2). Both test pits were excavated by hand to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

- 1.10 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with the Corinium Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix C.

Test pit 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.2 The earliest deposit encountered was limestone and gravel surface 104 revealed 0.7m below present ground level (BPGL). It was overlain by silty deposit 105, approximately 0.1m in thickness, from which late Romano British pottery and coinage was recovered. This was in turn sealed by silty clay layer 103 from which early post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco pipe, as well as residual Roman artefacts, were retrieved. This was sealed by subsoil 102 and modern topsoil 101, the latter was cut by rubble filled soakaway 108 and associated concrete kerbstone 107.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 2.3 Natural clay substrate 204 was revealed 0.98m BPGL. It was cut by irregular pit 205 within which pitched limestone fragments were noted along its eastern edge. One sherd of probable Iron Age pottery was recovered from pit fill 206. Partially overlaying pit fill 206 was metallated surface 207, that in turn was sealed by buried topsoil 203 from which 4th-century AD pottery and coinage was recovered.
- 2.4 Two modern make-up layers, 201 and 202, containing stone fragments and charcoal, sealed buried topsoil 203. In the north east corner of the test pit, covered by layer 201 and butted by 202 and possibly by 203 (certainly no construction cut

was visible) a small portion of a limestone wall, 208, survived. The foregoing deposits were sealed by modern topsoil 200.

The Finds

- 2.5 Quantities of pottery, clay tobacco pipe, glass, fired clay, ceramic building material, animal bone, burnt stone and metalwork were recovered during the current works (see Appendix B).
- 2.6 A total of 46 sherds of pottery, weighing 892g was recovered. One sherd of probable Iron Age pottery (32g), comprising a bodysherd in a fossil shell tempered fabric featuring vertical scoring, was recovered from pit fill 206. However, the majority of pottery recovered (40 sherds, 667g) dates to the Roman period. Identified fabrics comprised Baetican amphora, miscellaneous greywares, a late imitation Black Burnished fabric (equivalent to Cirencester fabrics 101-4), Oxfordshire red-slipped ware, Oxfordshire white-slipped mortaria, Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware, Severn Valley ware, Midlands shell-tempered ware, pink grog-tempered ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 210) and a brown colour-coated ware (equivalent to Cirencester fabric 105). Aspects of the groups from deposits 105 and 203, particularly the presence of Midlands shell-tempered ware, pink grogged types, and of white-painted forms in Oxford red-slipped ware, are indicative of (later) 4th century AD dating and consistent with dating suggested by the coins found in association (see section 2.7 below). Identifiable forms are characteristically of the later 3rd to 4th centuries and included a wall-sided mortarium from buried topsoil layer 203 and a flanged bowl from deposit 105.
- 2.7 Three coins, all Late Roman bronze issues, were recovered. Two are legible: a VICTORIAE DD AUG (House of Constantine) issue from layer 105, dates to AD 343–8, and a GLORIA ROMANORUM (Valentinian or Valens) issue from buried topsoil layer 203, dates to AD 364–78. An illegible minim recovered from layer 103 probably dates to the later 4th century AD. Other pieces of metalwork recovered consisted of a modern iron nail and chicken wire from make up layer 201.
- 2.8 Animal bone was recovered from deposits 105, 201, and 203. Cattle and sheep bone were identified, with the remaining fragments being cow-sized and sheep-sized. The cattle pelvis from deposit 201 had been sawn through and signs of

gnawing by dogs were also noted. The long bone fragments recovered from deposit 203 had been chopped through.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 The evaluation has revealed further evidence of archaeological features associated with the previously identified prehistoric and Roman settlement within the Bourton Bridge/Lansdown area.

3.2 The earliest identified feature is pit 205, from which a sherd of probable Iron Age pottery was recovered, that was partially sealed by metalled surface 207. Although it remains undetermined whether surfaces 207 and 104 are representative of a single or separate areas of hardstanding, in both instances the surfaces are sealed by deposits exclusively containing 4th-century AD artefacts. The origin and function of wall 208 also remains undetermined, although the lack of visible construction cut within buried topsoil 203 suggests that it may be Roman in origin.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard and Sian Reynish. The report was written by Sian Reynish and the finds report by Teresa Gilmore. The illustrations were prepared by Rachel Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Sian Reynish, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1981 *Geological survey of Great Britain, England and Wales, solid and drift edition, Moreton-in-Marsh, Sheet 217, 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Stonecroft, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.*

Timby, J. R., 1998 *Excavations at Kingscote and Wycomb, Gloucestershire: A Roman Estate Centre and Small Town in the Cotswolds with Notes on Related Settlements.*

Tomber, R. and Dore, J. 1998 *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: a handbook* London: Museum of London Archaeology Service

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Test pit 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
102	Layer	Subsoil			0.25	C19-C20
103	Layer	Layer			0.22	C16-C18
104	Layer	Metalled surface				
105	Layer	Layer			0.07	C4
106	Cut	Construction cut for concrete kerb		0.2	0.21	
107	Fill	Concrete kerb		0.2	0.21	
108	Cut	Construction cut for possible soakaway	>1	>0.7	0.4	
109	Fill	Fill of soakaway 108	>1	>0.7	0.4	

Test pit 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.09	
201	Layer	Make up layer			0.21	C20
202	Layer	Make up layer			0.3	C19-C20
203	Layer	Buried topsoil			0.41	C4
204	Layer	Natural clay substrate				
205	Cut	Construction cut for pit	>0.84	>0.83		
206	Fill	Fill of pit 205	>0.84	>0.83		IA
207	Layer	Metalled surface	>0.26	>0.17	0.02	
208	Structure	limestone wall	>0.18	>0.12	>0.48	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
102	Post-medieval pottery: china	2	14	C19-C20
	Ceramic building material: brick	1	127	
103	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware	2	187	C16-C18
	Roman pottery: Baetician amphora, greyware	2	132	
	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	1	1	C4
	Copper Alloy Coin: Minim. AE4 copy. Illegible	1	1	
	Fired clay	1	105	
	Burnt stone	1	183	
105	Roman pottery: Oxfordshire red-slipped ware, greyware, Late imitation Black Burnished.	4	66	C4
	Copper alloy coin: VICTORIAE DD AUG (Hs. of Constantine). AE3.	1	1	AD 343-8
	Animal bone; cow-sized, sheep-sized	2	30	
201	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware	1	17	C20
	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	1	4	
	Post-medieval glass: bottle, safety glass	2	28	
	Iron: nail, chicken wire	2	38	
	Animal bone; cattle	1	217	
202	Post-medieval pottery: flowerpot	1	7	C19-C20

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
203	Roman pottery: Oxfordshire red-slipped ware, Oxfordshire white mortaria, greyware, fossil shell tempered, Lower Nene Valley colour-coat, Severn Valley ware, pink grog tempered, brown colour-coat, Midlands shell tempered	33	437	C4
	Iron Object			
	Copper Alloy coin: GLORIA ROMANORUM (Valentinian or Valens). AE3	1	49	AD 364-78
	Coal	1	2	
	Burnt stone	1	4	
	Animal bone; sheep/goat, cow-sized	1	2438	
	11	72		
206	Iron Age pottery: fossil shell tempered	1	32	IA

APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using the spot height located in front of the Mousetrap Inn (130.4m AOD).

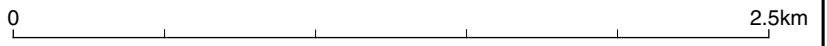
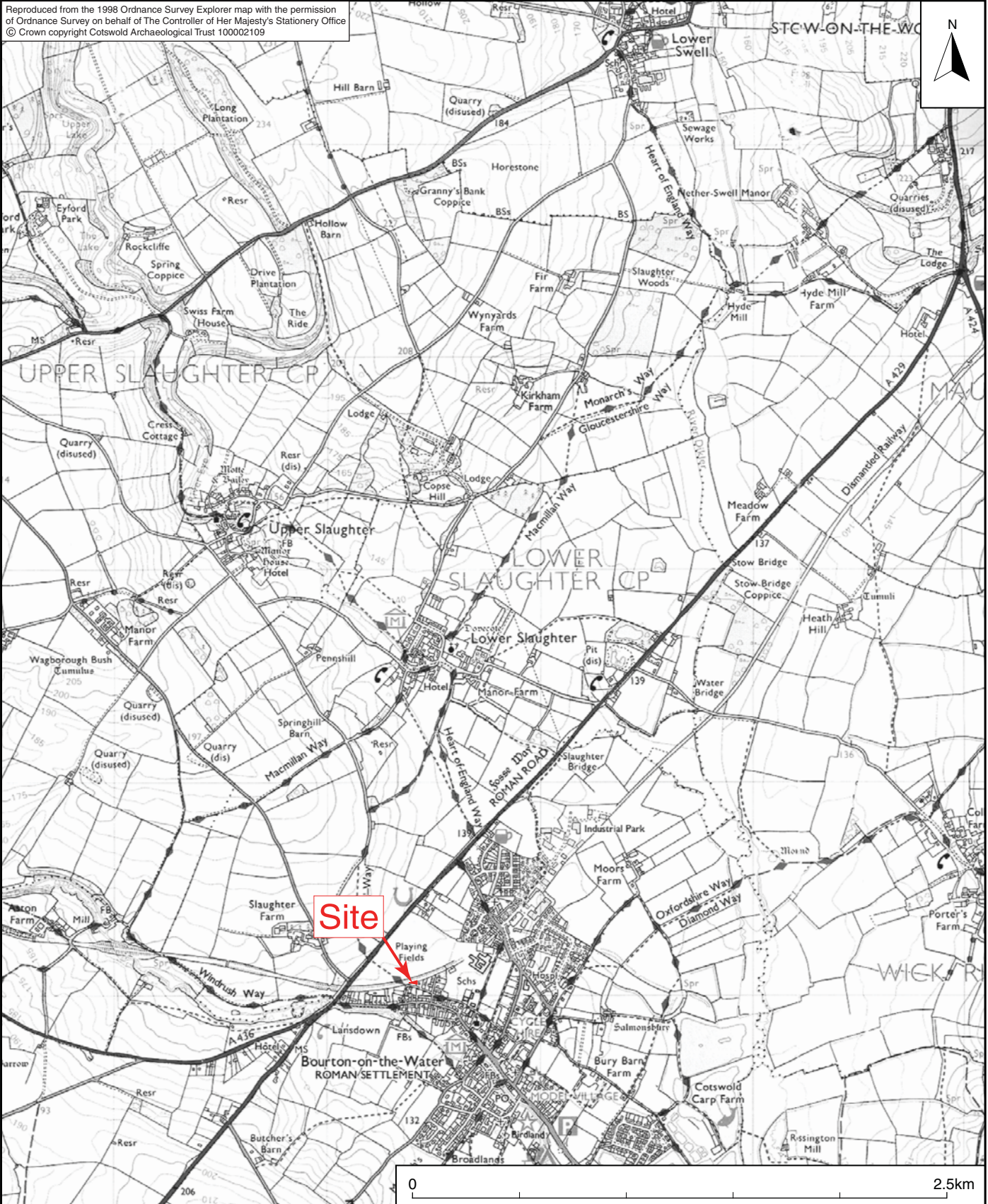
	Trench 1	Trench 2
Current ground level	0.00m (132.56m)	0.00m (132.32m)
Top of Roman deposits	0.43m (132.07m)	0.58m (131.74m)
Top of metallated surface	0.73m (131.83m)	0.88m (131.44m)
Limit of excavation	0.73m (131.83m)	1.02m (131.28m)


Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

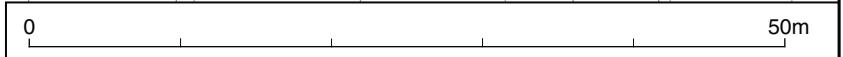
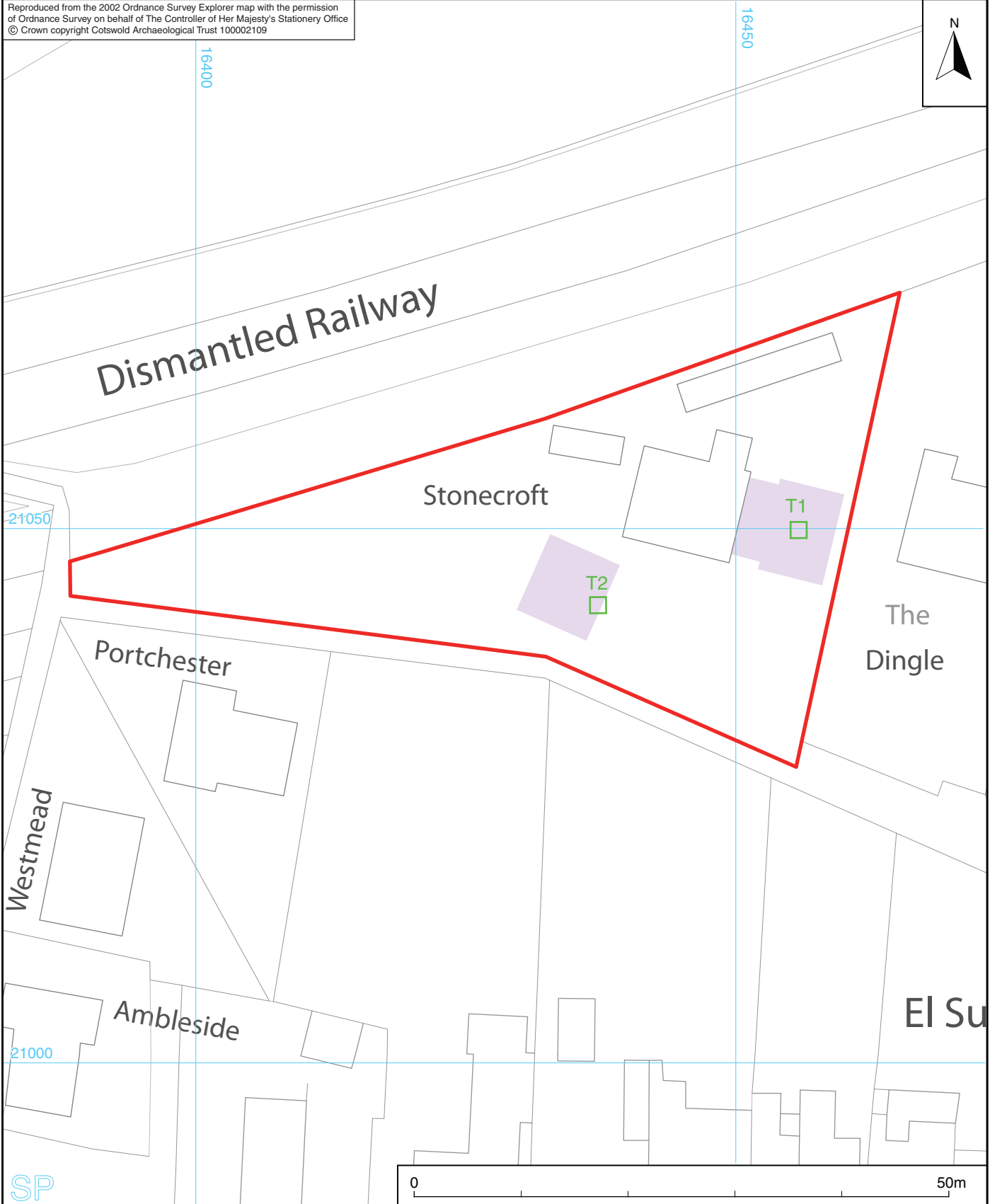
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Stonecroft, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2008 at Stonecroft, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire. Two test pits, each measuring 1.5m x 1.5m, were hand excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation identified Roman deposits, including a metalled surface, and a pit containing pitched limestone and a sherd of probable Iron Age pottery. An undated, but probable Roman wall was also recorded.</p>	
Project dates	15-17 December 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Stonecroft, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 1641 2104	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	none	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Corinium Museum	Ceramics, animal bone and coins
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench sheets, Context sheets, Levels register, photographic registers, plans and sections.
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Stonecroft, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA Typescript report 08521		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Stonecroft, Mousetrap Lane Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:25,000@A4	2772	1



- site
- evaluation trench
- proposed new build

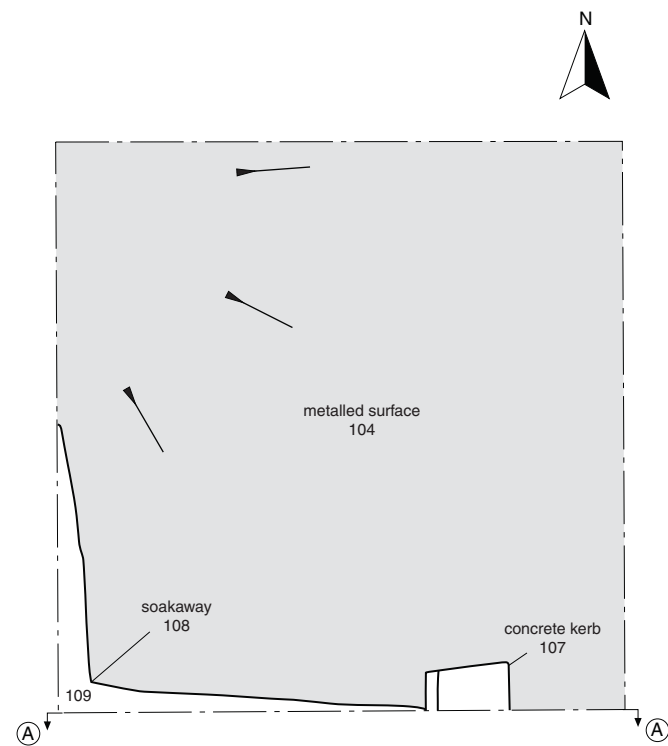


COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

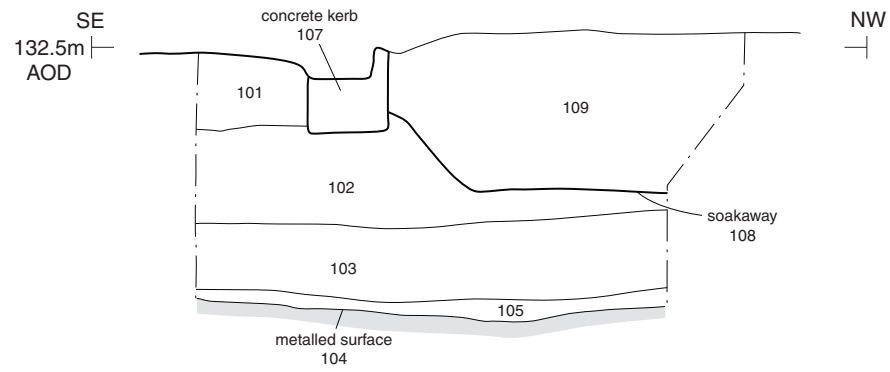
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 Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

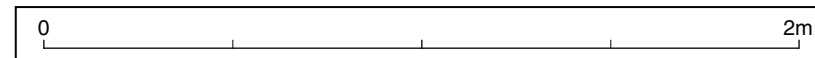
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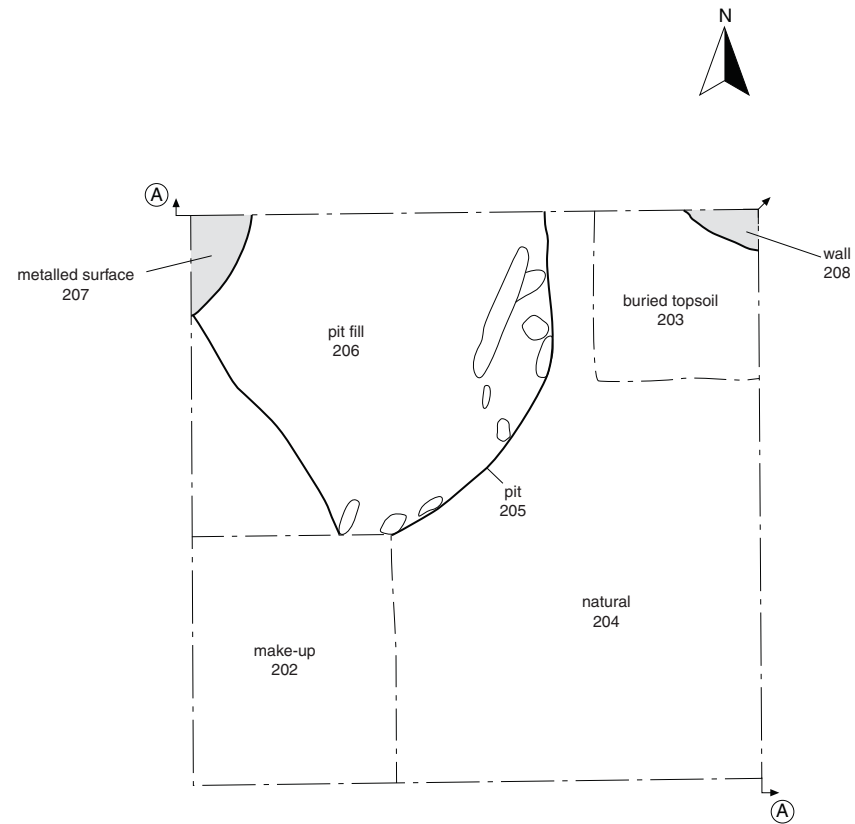


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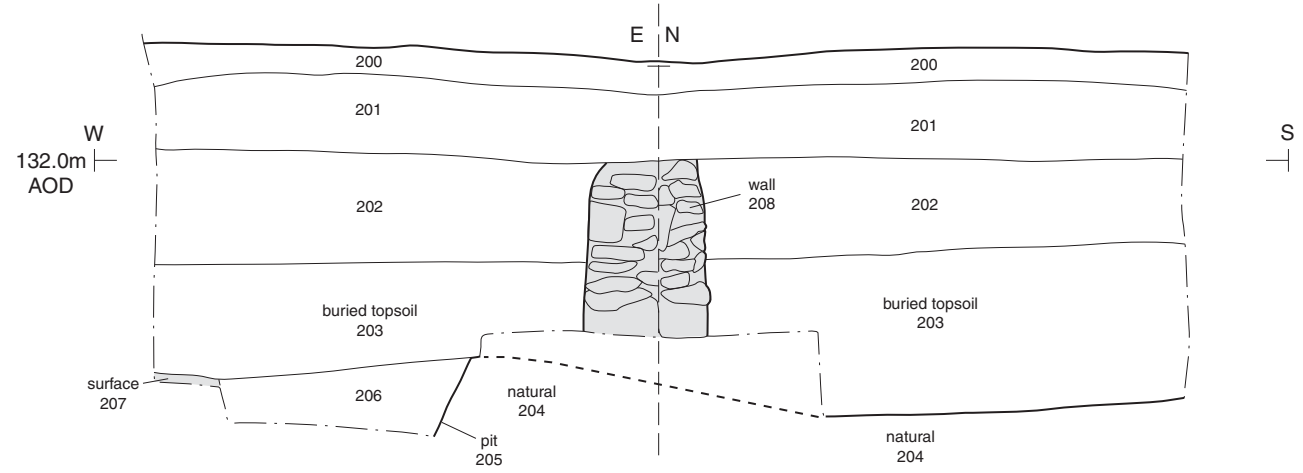


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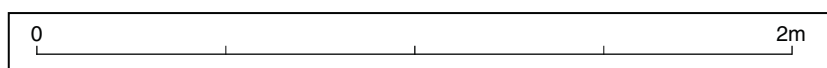
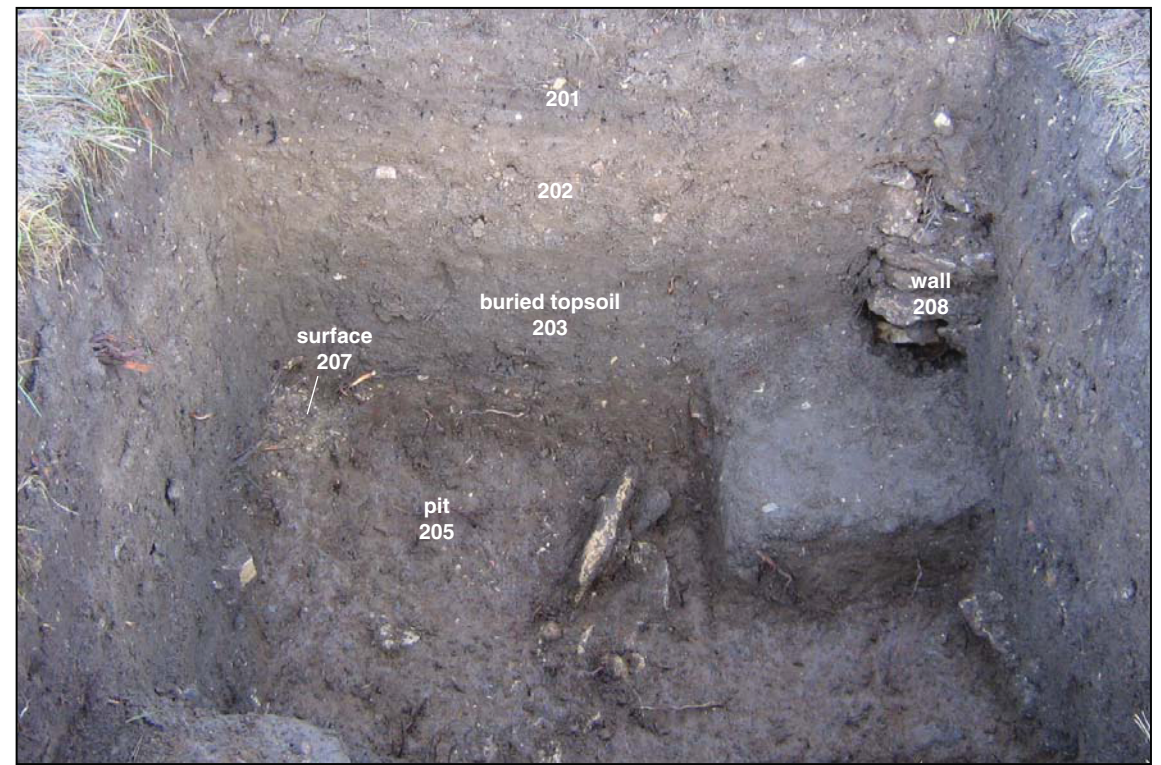




Section AA



— surface/wall



PROJECT TITLE Stonecroft, Mousetrap Lane Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire			
FIGURE TITLE Trench 2: plan, section and photograph			
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