

**LAND AT OLDENDS FARM
STONEHOUSE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

ALDER KING

on behalf of

THE DURBRIDGE ESTATE

CA PROJECT: 2843
CA REPORT: 09074


MAY 2009



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date	24 April 2009
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date	24 April 2009
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signed	
date	6 May 2009
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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Plan of trenches showing archaeological features (1:1000)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Oldends Farm
Location: Stonehouse, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 8000 0610
Type: Evaluation
Date: 20-23 April 2009
Planning Reference: S.09/0307/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with The Museum in the Park, Stroud
Site Code: OFS09

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2009 on land at Oldends farm, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. Seven trenches were excavated.

Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval ridge and furrow was identified across the south and east of the site, surviving as a series of faint, irregularly spaced earthworks. To the north and east of the site, a post-medieval or modern drainage system was noted. This may have removed earlier ridge and furrow. A modern ditch, on the alignment of a former field boundary, was also identified. No further archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Alder King on behalf of The Durbridge Estate on land at Oldends Farm, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8000 0610; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to support a planning application for the development of the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009a) and approved by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), archaeological advisor to Stroud District Council (SDC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practises Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Charles Parry, including a site visit on 22 April 2009.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses a generally flat area of approximately 1.7ha and comprises a single field, currently under rough pasture (Fig. 2). It is bounded to the west by commercial premises and farmland, to the south by a minor road, to the east by the Bristol and Gloucester Railway line and to the north by further farmland. The site lies at approximately 35m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as brownstones of the Old Red Sandstone era (BGS 1972). Alluvial clay was revealed in all excavated trenches.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The archaeological potential of the site has been examined by an archaeological desk-based assessment prepared by CA (2009b). This identified the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks of possible medieval origin within the eastern part of the site. By the early 19th-century the site comprised two fields, separated by a now-removed field boundary. The 1803 map of the Parish of Stonehouse depicts the site

as orchard extending across both of these fields. Aerial photographs, along with observations made during a site visit, suggest that the orchard trees were generally aligned along the top of the extant ridges. A series of probable post-medieval or modern drainage features were also identified in the northern and western parts of the site. These are reproduced in Fig. 2 in relation to the evaluation results.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 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 Stroud District Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.5m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2).
- 1.8 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate. 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). However, no deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 1.10 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The archive will be deposited with The Museum in the Park, Stroud. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 All excavated trenches revealed a relatively uniform natural geological substrate comprising mid greyish-blue alluvial clay with sparse orange brown mottles. A minor variance in colour was noted in two trenches at the north of site (trenches 1 and 2). All trenches contained a distinct subsoil layer comprising mid yellowish-brown clay silt. This exhibited some variance in depth across the site, being deepest to the south of site, but was essentially uniform in composition. This was sealed by a consistent topsoil layer comprising dark brown clay silt.
- 2.3 Two trenches, trenches 1 and 2, were devoid of archaeology, containing only modern ceramic field drains.

Trench 3

- 2.4 A narrow, U-shaped ditch, 303, was identified towards the centre of the trench. This was very shallow and contained a single fragment of modern milk bottle (not retained). This feature would appear to correspond to a field boundary recorded on 19th-century cartographic sources (CA 2009b). The course of this field boundary remained visible as an ephemeral depression running NNE-SSW across site.

Trench 4

- 2.5 Two narrow stone filled drains, 403 and 405, were identified in the southern half of the trench. These would appear to correspond to a series of narrow drainage channels previously identified as surviving earthworks in the western area of site (CA 2009b). No dating evidence was recovered from these features. However, they would appear to be of post-medieval or modern date.

Trenches 5, 6 and 7

- 2.5 Evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation was identified in trenches 5, 6 and 7. Ridges were visible as shallow earthworks running across the south and east of site. A single furrow, 503, was identified cutting the natural substrate at the south-eastern

end of trench 5. This feature was very shallow and excavation produced no dating evidence.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval ridge and furrow, as shown on aerial photographs, was identified in the south and east of site. These features were still visible in the field and appeared to be comparatively narrow and irregularly spaced. This would appear to suggest that more than one phase of agricultural activity had taken place on the site. Disturbance of the ridge and furrow is likely to have occurred during the creation of an orchard sometime prior to 1803. It is apparent from observations made during the field evaluation, that the remaining orchard trees were aligned along the top of the extant ridges. Therefore, further damage is likely to have been caused to the ridges during the subsequent removal of trees as the orchard went out of use.
- 3.2 To the north and east of the site ridge and furrow earthworks were absent. This would appear to be as a result of the imposition of a later drainage system across this part of site. This was visible during the evaluation as an area of widely spaced, straight earthworks. Two of these features corresponded to 'French' type drains identified within trench 4.
- 3.2 The modern ditch identified in trench 3 would appear to represent a former field boundary depicted on 19th-century cartographic sources. No evidence of this ditch continuing further north into trench 2 was identified. It is possible that this feature was removed by later activity, highlighted above, or that it did not extend as far as this trench. No further archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Shaun McConnachie and Alex Wilkinson. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1972 *Geological survey of Great Britain, Solid and Drift Edition, Gloucester, Sheet 234*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009a *Land at Oldends Farm, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009b *Land at Oldends Farm, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire: archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, CA Report No. 08235*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
100	Layer	Topsoil: dark brown clay silt			0.22
101	Layer	Subsoil: Mid yellowish-brown silt clay, sparse rounded pebble inclusions throughout			0.34
102	Layer	Natural substrate: mid-dark greyish-blue alluvial clay, sparse orange-brown clay silt mottles throughout			>0.03
103	Fill	Ceramic field drain		0.05	N/A
104	Cut	Cut for 103		0.05	N/A
105	Fill	Ceramic field drain		0.05	N/A
106	Cut	Cut for 105		0.05	N/A

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
200	Layer	Topsoil: dark brown clay silt			0.24
201	Layer	Subsoil: Mid yellowish-brown silt clay, sparse rounded pebble inclusions throughout			0.33
202	Layer	Natural substrate: mid-dark greyish-blue alluvial clay, sparse orange-brown clay silt mottles throughout			>0.05
203		Ceramic field drain		0.05	N/A
204		Cut for 203		0.05	N/A
205		Ceramic field drain		0.05	N/A
206		Cut for 205		0.05	N/A

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
300	Layer	Topsoil: dark brown clay silt			0.18
301	Layer	Subsoil: Mid yellowish-brown silt clay, sparse rounded pebble inclusions throughout			0.46
302	Layer	Natural substrate: mid greyish-blue alluvial clay, sparse orange-brown clay silt mottles throughout			>0.01m
303	Cut	Shallow, NE-SW aligned, ditch. Former field boundary		1.95	0.32
304	Fill	Primary fill of 303		0.57	0.19
305	Fill	Upper fill of 303, contained modern glass		1.95	0.18
306	Fill	Ceramic field drain		0.10	N/A
307	Cut	Cut for 306		0.10	N/A

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
400	Layer	Topsoil: dark brown clay silt			0.21
401	Layer	Subsoil: Mid yellowish-brown silt clay, sparse rounded pebble inclusions throughout			0.31
402	Layer	Natural substrate: mid greyish-blue alluvial clay, sparse orange-brown clay silt mottles throughout			>0.01
403	Cut	Construction cut for 'French' drain	>2	0.15	>0.30
404	Fill	Stone fill of 403	>2	0.15	>0.30
405	Cut	Construction cut for 'French' drain	>3.20	0.15	>0.30
406	Fill	Stone fill of 405	>3.20	0.15	>0.30

Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
500	Layer	Topsoil: dark brown clay silt			0.24
501	Layer	Subsoil: Mid yellowish-brown silt clay, sparse rounded pebble inclusions throughout			0.30
502	Layer	Natural substrate: mid greyish-blue alluvial clay, sparse orange-brown clay silt mottles throughout			>0.05
503	Cut	Cut of furrow		1.4	0.20
504	Fill	Fill of 503. Mid-dark yellowish brown silt clay, sparse rounded pebble inclusions throughout		1.4	0.20

Trench 6

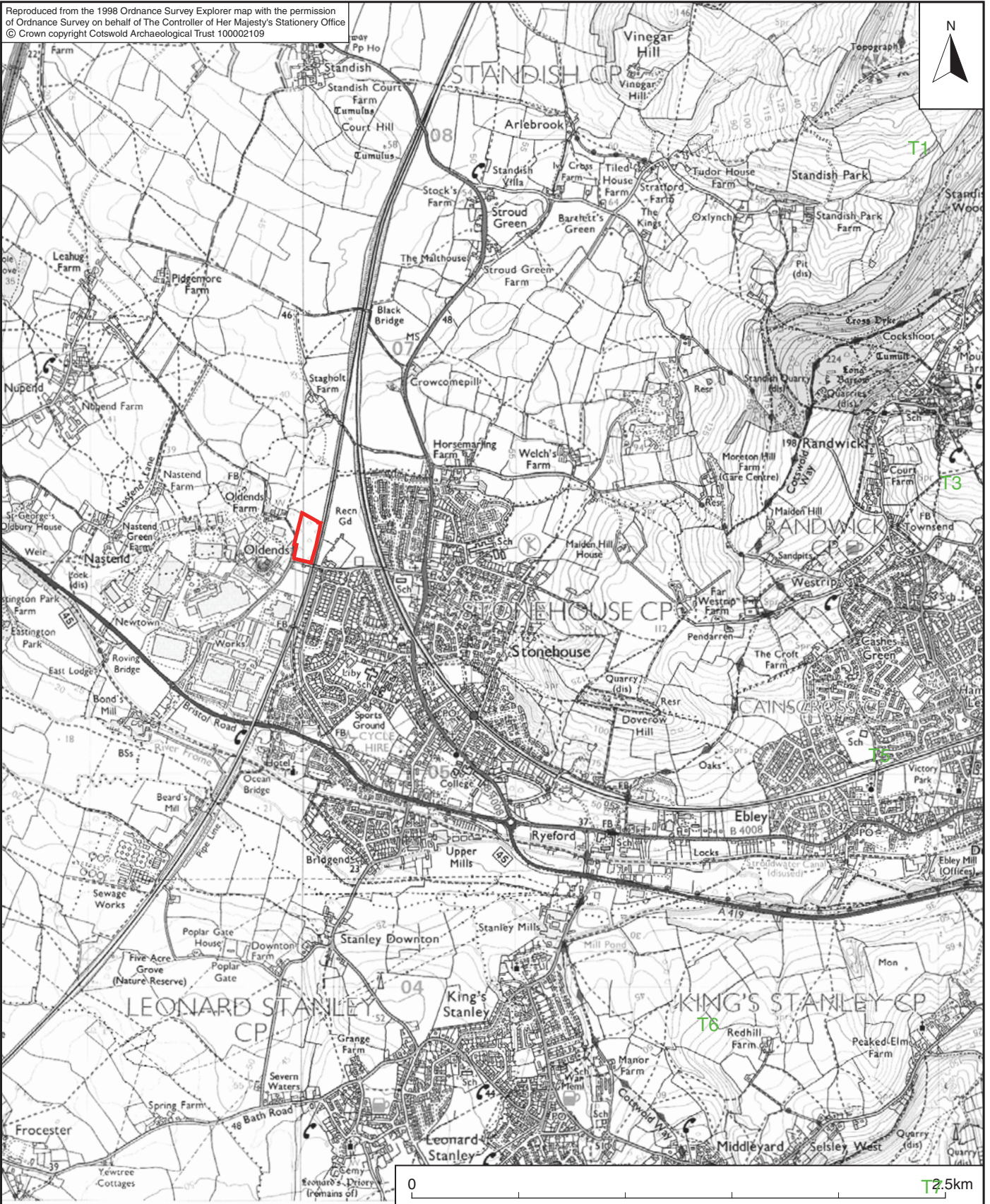
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
600	Layer	Topsoil: dark brown clay silt			0.30
601	Layer	Subsoil: Mid yellowish-brown silt clay, sparse rounded pebble inclusions throughout			0.43
602	Layer	Natural substrate: mid greyish-blue alluvial clay, sparse orange brown clay silt mottles throughout			>0.04

Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
600	Layer	Topsoil: dark brown clay silt			0.20
601	Layer	Subsoil: Mid yellowish-brown silt clay, sparse rounded pebble inclusions throughout			0.30
602	Layer	Natural substrate: mid greyish-blue alluvial clay, sparse orange-brown clay silt mottles throughout			>0.10

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Oldends Farm, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval ridge and furrow was identified across the south and east of site, surviving as a series of faint, irregularly spaced earthworks. To the north and east of the site, ridge and furrow earthworks were removed by the creation of a post-medieval or modern drainage system. A modern ditch, on the alignment of a former field boundary, was also identified. No further archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation.	
Project dates	20-23 April 2009	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009b <i>Land at Oldends Farm, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire: archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> , CA Report No. 08235	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Stonehouse, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.7ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8000 0610	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		N/A
Paper	The Museum in the Park, Stroud	Context sheets, Trench recording forms, Colour and black/white photographs, trench plans and sections
Digital	The Museum in the Park, Stroud	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Land at Oldends Farm, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire; Archaeological Evaluation</i> , CA typescript report 09074		



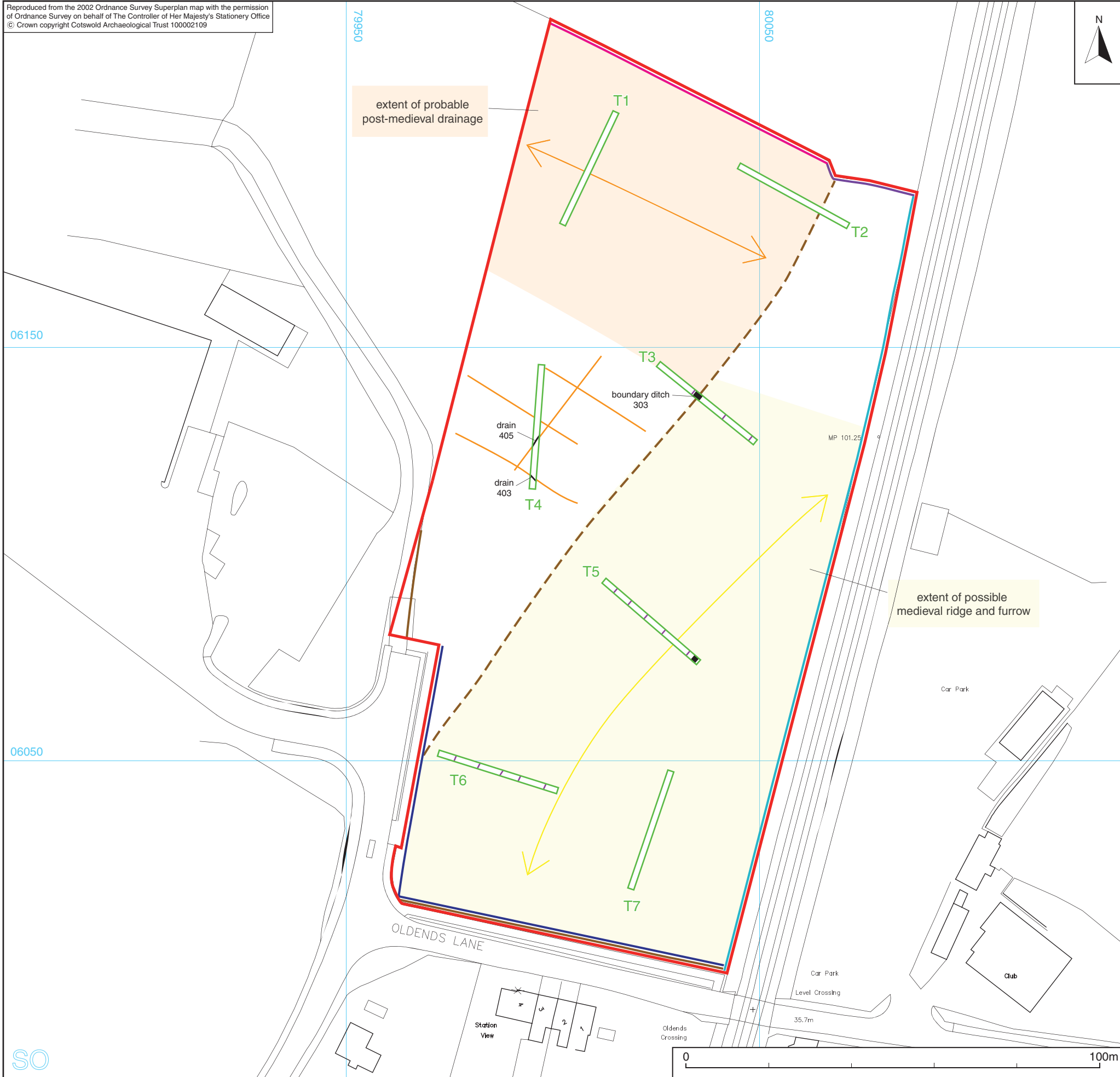
 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
Land at Oldends Farm, Stonehouse Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:25,000@A4	2843	1

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- site
- evaluation trench
- archaeological features
- top of ridge discovered during excavation
- boundary first depicted on map of c.1730, extant
- boundary first depicted on map of c.1803, extant
- boundary first depicted on map of c.1803, removed
- boundary first depicted on map of c.1840, extant
- late 20th-Century boundary, extant
- drainage channel
- indicative direction of drainage channel
- indicative direction of ridge and furrow earthworks

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Land at Oldends Farm, Stonehouse
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
**Plan of trenches showing
archaeological features**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:1000@A3	2743	2

SO