# LAND AT DRAYCOTT MILLS
# CAM
# GLOUCESTERSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

*For*

**BATHURST LTD**

CA PROJECT: 2861
CA REPORT: 09084

MAY 2009

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

# LAND AT DRAYCOTT MILLS
# CAM
# GLOUCESTERSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2861
CA REPORT: 09084

| | |
|---|---|
| prepared by | Jonathan Hart, Publications Officer |
| date | 14 May 2009 |
| checked by | Richard Young, Project Manager |
| date | 18 May 2009 |
| approved by | Mark Collard, Head of Contracts |
| signed |  |
| date | 21 May 2009 |
| issue | 01 |


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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## SUMMARY


| | |
|---|---|
| **Project Name:** | Land at Draycott Mills |
| **Location:** | Cam, Gloucestershire |
| **NGR:** | SO 7520 0110 |
| **Type:** | Evaluation |
| **Date:** | 8-13 May 2009 |
| **Location of Archive:** | To be deposited with the Museum in the Park, Stroud |
| **Accession Number:** | STGCM 2009.30 |
| **Site Code:** | DAM 09 |

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2009 on land at Draycott Mills, Cam, Gloucestershire. Ten trenches were excavated.

Two parallel ditches plotted during a geophysical survey of the site were identified. These remained undated but are likely to have flanked a trackway. The lack of anthropogenic material within the fills of these ditches, and within any of the topsoil or subsoil deposits across the site, suggests that the application area lies at a significant distance from any settlement.

The remaining features identified comprised furrows as well as field boundaries, some of which are depicted on the 1839 Tithe Map. These relate to medieval or later agricultural practises.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bathurst Ltd on land at Draycott Mills, Cam, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 7520 0110; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for development.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out at the recommendation of Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to Stroud District Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Mr Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Field Archaeologists (2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

### *The site*

1.3 The site is located to the east of the River Cam and Draycott Mills and comprises two pasture fields divided by a hedgerow (Fig. 2). It is bounded to the west by the dismantled Coaley-Dursley branch line of the Midland Railway and to the north, east and south by agricultural land. The current site forms an extension to the original application area which was evaluated in 2002, including trenches to the immediate north and south of the current site (CA 2002).

1.4 The site occupies *c.* 5.8ha and lies at approximately 40m AOD, with ground level dropping gently away to the west. The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Lower Lias Clay of the Jurassic era (BGS 1970). Yellow clay was exposed within every trench.

### *Archaeological background*

1.5 The site was initially assessed in a desk-based assessment undertaken by Cotswold Archaeological Trust (now Cotswold Archaeology) in 2002 (CAT 2002). This assessment concluded that later prehistoric and Roman occupation has been recorded within the locality, although not within the site itself. The assessment also identified the presence of Draycott Mill which originated in the late medieval period or earlier and which may have been located to the west of the evaluated area.

1.6 An evaluation of the original application area in 2002 identified one undated ditch and three clay lenses interpreted as furrows, all located to the immediate north of the current site (CA 2002). A geophysical survey was undertaken within the current site in 2008 (Archaeological Surveys 2008). This identified a limited number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin, as well as anomalies relating to ridge and furrow cultivation and former field boundaries.

***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 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***

1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of ten trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). All trenches were 50m in length and 1.6m in width. The locations of Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were adjusted to avoid overhead power lines and footpaths, whilst Trenches 9 and 10 were each sub-divided into two 25m long trenches to avoid overhead power lines.

1.9 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 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).

1.10 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) and 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).

1.11 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the Museum in the Park, Stroud under accession number

STGCM 2009.30. 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 (FIGS 2 AND 3)

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A. Trenches 3, 4, 6 and 10A/10B contained no archaeological features or deposits and are not discussed further. The remaining trenches are discussed below.

***Trenches 1 and 2***

2.2 Trenches 1 and 2 were located to investigate two parallel linear anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. Both trenches contained ditches and furrows and Trench 2 contained a natural hollow.

2.3 Two north-west/south-east aligned ditches (104 and 106), approximately 8m apart, were identified in Trench 1 and corresponded with the alignment of the two parallel linear anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. Both comprised U-profiled cuts into the natural clay and measured 1m-1.2m in width by up to 0.32m in depth (Fig. 3, sections 1 and 2). Both were filled by single deposits of compact grey clay silt from which no finds were recovered. Within Trench 2 north-west/south-east aligned ditch 204 was identified on the projected alignment of ditch 104. Ditch 204 contained a similar fill to that of ditches 104 and 106 in Trench 1 and remained undated.

2.4 North-west/south-east aligned furrows were identified in both trenches. All matched the locations and alignment of furrows identified during the geophysical survey. All appeared to have been cut through the natural substrate and sealed by the subsoil, although the similarity of their fills to the subsoil meant that this was impossible to determine with certainty.

2.5 Ditch 116 was identified within Trench 1 and was cut through the subsoil. It was 1.5m wide and was filled with redeposited topsoil 117. The loose nature of this fill suggested that the ditch had been infilled deliberately and relatively recently.

2.6 Feature 210 was identified in Trench 2 and consisted of a broad, shallow-based cut into the natural substrate. It was filled with homogeneous brown clay silt 211 from which no finds were recovered. It lies immediately to the east of a large oval anomaly identified during the geophysical survey. The lack of tip lines within the fill suggests that this was not a backfilled quarry and the lack of organic material suggests neither that it was a pond. It seems probable that feature 210 was of natural origin.

***Trench 5***

2.7 Ditch 504 was identified cutting the natural substrate. It was aligned north-west/south-east and consisted of a broad, flat-based cut 1.15m wide and 0.38m deep (Fig. 3, section 3). It was filled with grey clay silt 505 from which no finds were recovered. The location and alignment of ditch 504 corresponds with that of a linear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey. It lies on the same alignment, although slightly to the north of, the projected line of a field boundary depicted on the 1839 Tithe Map and reproduced in the desk-based assessment (Fig. 2; CAT 2002, Fig. 4).

***Trenches 7 and 8***

2.8 Trenches 7 and 8 were located to investigate an L-shaped linear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey. Within Trench 7 this was identified as ditch 705 which was cut through the subsoil. It was north/south aligned and measured 1.5m in width. It was filled with mid brown clay silt 706 from which no finds were recovered. Within Trench 8 the geophysical anomaly was identified as ditch 804. This was similar to the ditch in Trench 7 and was also cut through the subsoil. It was filled with a mid brown clay-silt 805 from which 19th-century pottery was recovered.

2.9 The location of the geophysical anomaly identified in Trenches 7 and 8 corresponds with that of a field boundary depicted on the 1839 Tithe Map (Fig. 2; CAT 2002, Fig. 4).

***Trenches 9A and 9B***

2.10 Furrows 904 and 906 in trench 9A were aligned east/west, broadly corresponding with the alignments of furrows identified during the geophysical survey. A furrow 908 in Trench 9B was aligned broadly north-east/south-west. Two north/south aligned linear anomalies were plotted in this part of the site during the geophysical survey. They were not identified within the evaluation trenches.

### *The Finds Evidence*

2.11 A small pottery assemblage was recovered from fill 805 of ditch 804 (Trench 8). This comprised six sherds of 19th-century stoneware and has not been retained.

## 3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Ditches 104 and 106 encountered in Trench 1, and ditch 204 within Trench 2, broadly correlate with two north-west/south-east-aligned anomalies identified during the preceding geophysical survey, and suggest the presence of a ditch-flanked trackway/droveway traversing the northern part of the site. The lack of anthropogenic material from these ditches, and from any of the topsoil or subsoil deposits suggests however that the site lies at a significant distance from any former settlement.

3.2 The remaining features comprised field boundaries and furrows relating to medieval and later agricultural practises. Some of these boundaries are depicted on the 1839 Tithe Map.

## 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Hart, assisted by Andrew Loader and Pippa Mitcheson. The report was written by Jonathan Hart, assisted by Teresa Gilmore, and illustrations prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Hart and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 5. REFERENCES

AS (Archaeological Surveys) 2008 *Land at Draycott Mills, Cam, Dursley, Gloucestershire*: Magnetometry Survey AS report **J257**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1970 *Geological Survey of England and Wales, Solid and Drift Edition: Sheet 251, Malmesbury.* 1:50,000

CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 2002 *Land at Draycott Mills, Cam, near Dursely, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Assessment.* CA typescript report No. **02012**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2002 *Draycott Mills, Cam, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report No. **02125**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Land at Draycott Mills, Cam, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

| No. | Type | Description | Width | Depth | Spot-date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 101 | Layer | Topsoil | - | 0.26m | - |
| 102 | Layer | Subsoil | - | 0.14m | - |
| 103 | Layer | Natural: yellow clay | - | - | - |
| 104 | Cut | Ditch: 45° edges, U-profile, NW/SE aligned | 1m | 0.3m | - |
| 105 | Fill | Only fill of 104: compact mid grey clay silt | 1m | 0.3m | - |
| 106 | Cut | Ditch: 45° edges, U-profile, NW/SE aligned | 1.2m | 0.32m | - |
| 107 | Fill | Only fill of 106: compact mid grey clay silt | 1.2m | 0.32m | - |
| 108 | Cut | Furrow: NW/SE aligned | 0.7m | - | - |
| 109 | Fill | Fill of 108: mid brown clay silt | 0.7m | - | - |
| 110 | Cut | Furrow: NW/SE aligned | 0.5m | - | - |
| 111 | Fill | Fill of 110: mid brown clay silt | 0.5m | - | - |
| 112 | Cut | Furrow: NW/SE aligned | 1.15m | - | - |
| 113 | Fill | Fill of 112: mid brown clay silt | 1.15m | - | - |
| 114 | Cut | Furrow: NW/SE aligned | 1.6m | - | - |
| 115 | Fill | Fill of 114: mid brown clay silt | 1.6m | - | - |
| 116 | Cut | Ditch: NE/SW aligned | 1.5m | - | - |
| 117 | Fill | Fill of 116: loose redeposited topsoil with frequent voids | 1.5m | - | - |

Trench 2

| No. | Type | Description | Width | Depth | Spot-date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 201 | Layer | Topsoil | - | 0.26m | - |
| 202 | Layer | Subsoil | - | 0.14m | - |
| 203 | Layer | Natural: yellow clay | - | - | - |
| 204 | Cut | Ditch: NW/SE aligned | 2.3m | - | - |
| 205 | Fill | Fill of 204: compact mid grey clay silt | 2.3m | - | - |
| 206 | Cut | Furrow: NW/SE aligned | 0.8m | - | - |
| 207 | Fill | Fill of 206: mid brown clay silt | 0.8m | - | - |
| 208 | Cut | Furrow: NW/SE aligned | 1m | - | - |
| 209 | Fill | Fill of 208: mid brown clay silt | 1m | - | - |
| 210 | Cut | Wide, deep, flat based cut. Possibly a natural hollow | - | 0.6m | - |
| 211 | Fill | Only fill of 210: mid brown clay silt | - | 0.6m | - |

Trench 3

| No. | Type | Description | Width | Depth | Spot-date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 301 | Layer | Topsoil | - | 0.26m | - |
| 302 | Layer | Subsoil | - | 0.14m | - |
| 303 | Layer | Natural: yellow clay | - | - | - |

Trench 4

| No. | Type | Description | Width | Depth | Spot-date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 401 | Layer | Topsoil | - | 0.25m | - |
| 402 | Layer | Subsoil | - | 0.15m | - |
| 403 | Layer | Natural: yellow clay | - | - | - |

Trench 5

| No. | Type | Description | Width | Depth | Spot-date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 501 | Layer | Topsoil | - | 0.26m | - |
| 502 | Layer | Subsoil | - | 0.15m | - |
| 503 | Layer | Natural: yellow clay | - | - | - |
| 504 | Cut | Ditch: 40-45° edges, flat base, NW/SE aligned | 1.15m | 0.38m | - |
| 505 | Fill | Only fill of 504: compact mid grey clay silt | 1.15m | 0.38m | - |

Trench 6

| No. | Type | Description | Width | Depth | Spot-date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 601 | Layer | Topsoil | - | 0.25m | - |
| 602 | Layer | Subsoil | - | 0.15m | - |
| 603 | Layer | Natural: yellow clay | - | - | - |

Trench 7

| No. | Type | Description | Width | Depth | Spot-date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 701 | Layer | Topsoil | - | 0.25m | - |
| 702 | Layer | Subsoil | - | 0.25m | - |
| 703 | Layer | Natural: yellow silty clay | - | 0.8m | - |
| 704 | Layer | Natural yellow clay | - | - | - |
| 705 | Cut | Ditch: N/S aligned | 1.5m | - | - |
| 706 | Fill | Only fill of 705: compact mid brown clay silt | 1.5m | - | - |

Trench 8

| No. | Type | Description | Width | Depth | Spot-date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 801 | Layer | Topsoil | - | 0.27m | - |
| 802 | Layer | Subsoil | - | 0. 13m | - |
| 803 | Layer | Natural: yellow clay | - | - | - |
| 804 | Cut | Ditch: E/W aligned | 2.35m | - | - |
| 805 | Fill | Only fill of 804: compact mid brown clay silt | 2.35m | - | C19 |

Trenches 9A/9B

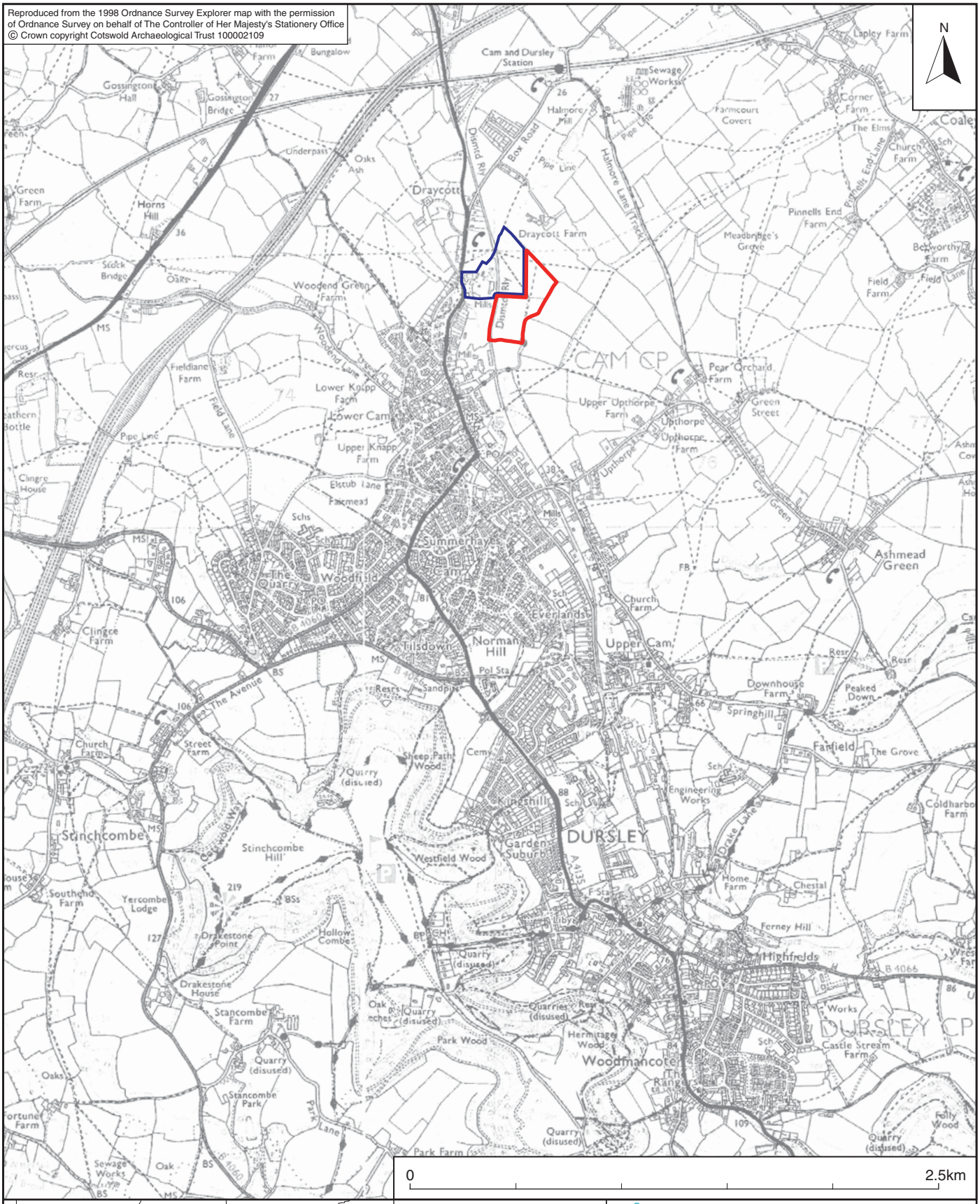
| No. | Type | Description | Width | Depth | Spot-date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 901 | Layer | Topsoil | - | 0.3m | - |
| 902 | Layer | Subsoil | - | 0.15m | - |
| 903 | Layer | Natural: yellow clay | - | - | - |
| 904 | Cut | Furrow: E/W aligned | 0.8m | - | - |
| 905 | Fill | Fill of 904: mid brown clay silt | 0.8m | - | - |
| 906 | Cut | Furrow: E/W aligned | 0.7m | - | - |
| 907 | Fill | Fill of 906: mid brown clay silt | 0.7m | - | - |
| 908 | Cut | Furrow: NE/SW aligned | 1m | - | - |
| 909 | Fill | Fill of 908: mid brown clay silt | 1m | - | - |

Trenches 10A/10B

| No. | Type | Description | Width | Depth | Spot-date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1001 | Layer | Topsoil | - | 0.25m | - |
| 1002 | Layer | Subsoil | - | 0.15m | - |
| 1003 | Layer | Natural: yellow clay | - | - | - |

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| **PROJECT DETAILS** | | |
|---|---|---|
| Project Name | Land at Draycott Mills, Cam, Gloucestershire | |
| Short description | An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2009 on land at Draycott Mills, Cam, Gloucestershire. Ten trenches were excavated.<br><br>Two parallel ditches plotted during a geophysical survey of the site were identified. These remained undated but are likely to have flanked a trackway. The lack of anthropogenic material within the fills of these ditches, and within any of the topsoil or subsoil deposits across the site, suggests that the application area lies at a significant distance from any settlement.<br><br>The remaining features identified comprised furrows as well as field boundaries, some of which are depicted on the 1839 Tithe Map. These relate to medieval or later agricultural practises. | |
| Project dates | 8-13 May 2009 | |
| Project type | Evaluation | |
| Previous work | Geophysical survey | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| **PROJECT LOCATION** | | |
| Site Location | Land at Draycott Mills, Cam, Gloucestershire | |
| Study area | 5.8ha | |
| Site co-ordinates | SO 7490 0120 | |
| **PROJECT CREATORS** | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Brief originator | Gloucestershire County Council | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Richard Young | |
| Project Supervisor | Jonathan Hart | |
| **PROJECT ARCHIVES** | Intended final location of archive | Content |
| Physical | - | - |
| Paper | Museum in the Park, Stroud STGCM 2009.30 | Context sheets, B/W photos |
| Digital | Museum in the Park, Stroud STGCM 2009.30 | digital photos |
| **BIBLIOGRAPHY** | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Land at Draycott Mills, Cam, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation* CA typescript report No. **09084** | | |





site

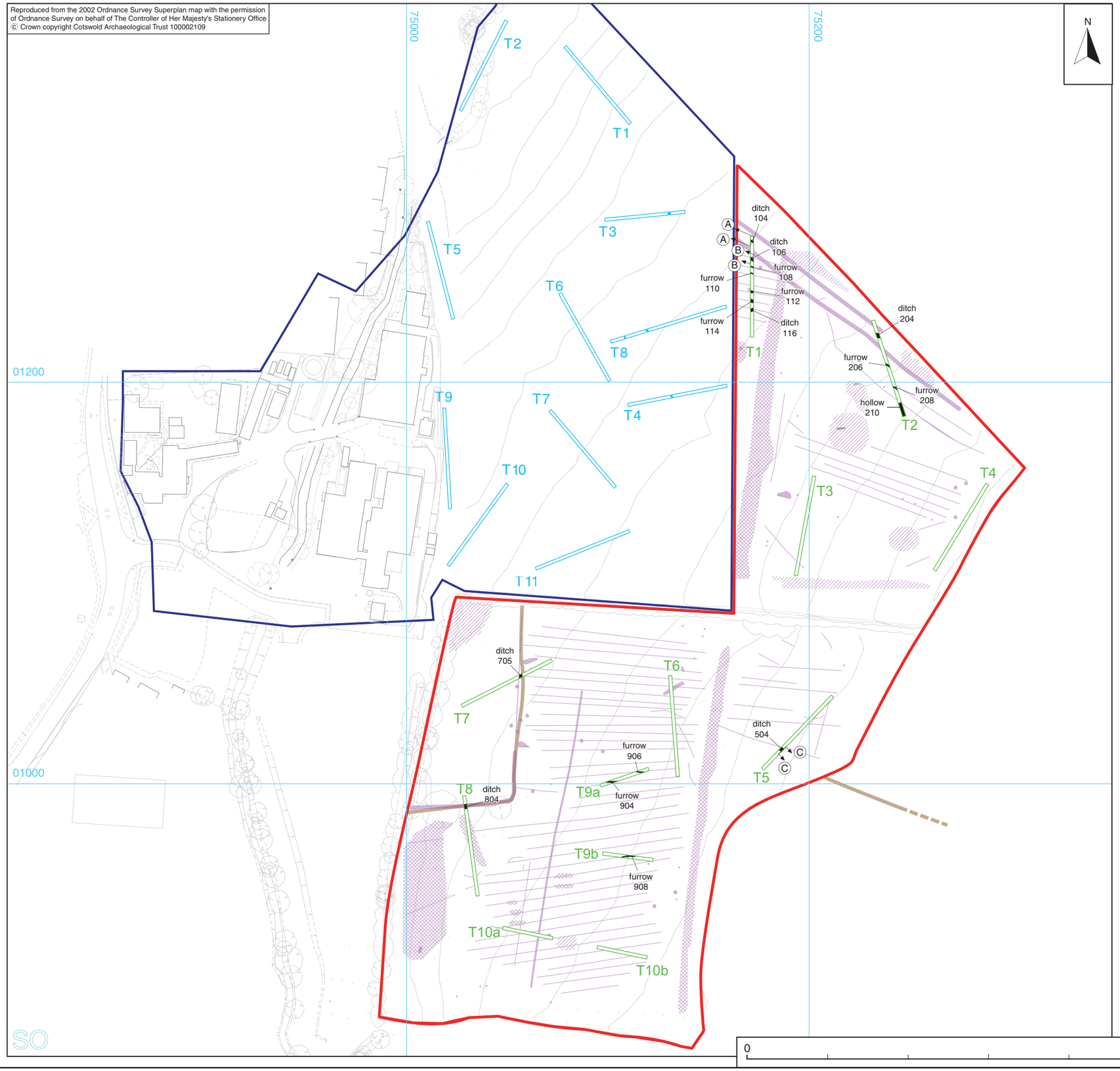
previous site boundary (CA 2002)

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

*PROJECT TITLE*
Land at Draycott Mills, Cam
Gloucestershire

*FIGURE TITLE*
**Site location plan**

| *DRAWN BY* | *SCALE* | *PROJECT NO.* | *FIGURE NO.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| RK | 1:25,000@A4 | 2861 | **1** |




site

evaluation trench

archaeological feature

geophysical survey results

previous site boundary (CA 2002)

previous evaluation trenches with archaeological features (CA 2002)

field boundary first depicted on 1839 Tithe Map

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Land at Draycott Mills, Cam
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
**Location of trenches, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results**

| DRAWN BY | SCALE | PROJECT NO. | FIGURE NO. |
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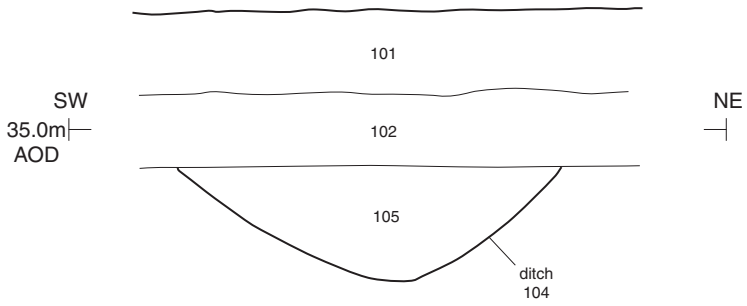
Section AA

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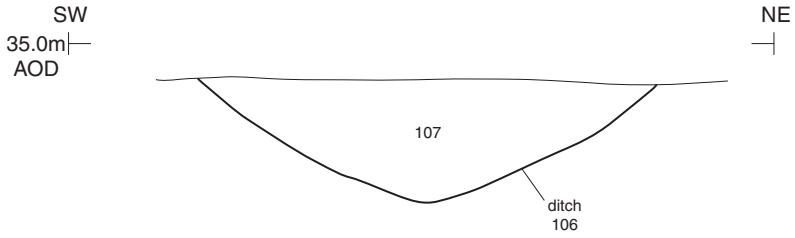


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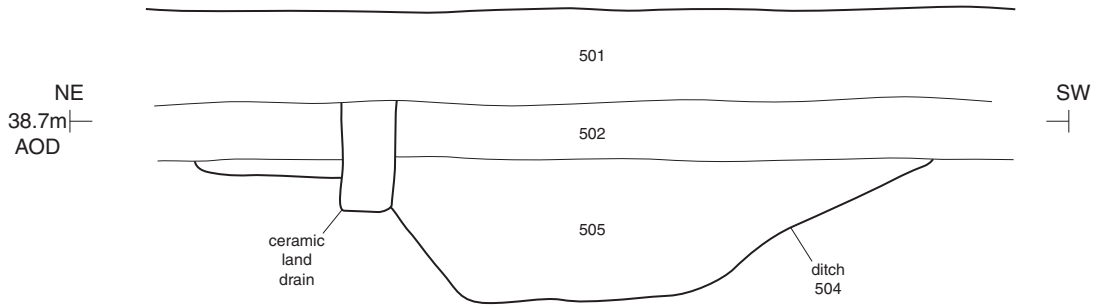


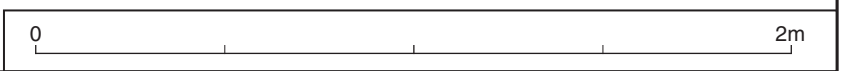


COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Land at Draycott Mills, Cam
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
**Sections**

| DRAWN BY | SCALE | PROJECT NO. | FIGURE NO. |
|---|---|---|---|
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