

**RED BULL PLAYING FIELDS
BRISTOL ROAD
MALMESBURY
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

**MALMESBURY YOUTH
FOOTBALL CLUB**

CA PROJECT: 2719
CA REPORT: 09092


APRIL 2009



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CA PROJECT: 2719
CA REPORT: 09092

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signed	
date	29 June 2009
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:1000)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Red Bull Playing Fields
Location: Bristol Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire
NGR: ST 9100 8791
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 21 December 2008 to 10 February 2009
Planning Reference: 07/03106/FUL, condition 6
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Site Code: RBM 08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of changing room facilities at Red Bull Playing Fields, Bristol Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between December 2008 and February 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Malmesbury Youth Football Club at Red Bull Playing Fields, Bristol Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 9100 8791; Figs 1 and 2). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the construction of changing room facilities (North Wiltshire Council Planning ref: 07/03106/FUL, condition 6). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Ms Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Wiltshire County Council Archaeologist, archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, North Wiltshire District Council (NWDC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2008), *the Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation* (Wiltshire County Council Archaeology Service 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

- 1.3 The site covers approximately 184m² and is currently used as part of a sports field (Fig. 1). It lies at approximately 94m AOD and is bounded to the east by the Red Bull Public House, and by playing fields to the south, west and north.
- 1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as cornbrash, rubbly limestone of the Upper Jurassic era (BGS 1970). However, the natural geological substrate encountered during the watching brief consisted of light grey gravel and clay. This was revealed across the monitored area.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The proposed development area lies in an area of archaeological potential. Approximately 100m to the south-west undated cropmarks, possibly representative of an undated settlement site, have previously been identified (Wiltshire SMR ST98NW623). Aerial photographic evidence has also identified an undated circular

cropmark, possibly representative of a round barrow, 800m south-west of the site (Wiltshire SMR ST98NW624).

Methodology

- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising ground reduction, the excavation of foundation trenches, and the excavation of a separate soak-away trench (Area 2) (Fig. 2).
- 1.7 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.8 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble, and will be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum. 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 The natural geological substrate (102 and 202) consisting of light grey gravel and clay, was revealed in both Areas 1 and 2 at an average depth of between 0.3 and 0.4m below present ground level. In Area 1, this was overlain by mid grey, clay silt subsoil (101) averaging 0.25m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.2m of topsoil (100). In Area 2, this was overlain by further natural gravel (201) averaging 1m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.4m of modern aggregate (20).
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that nearby cropmarks, suggestive of a possible undated settlement site, either do not extend as far as this or were not exposed by the current development.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Dave Cudlip and Jon Hart. 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 Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1970 *Solid and Drift Geology Sheet 251: Malmesbury*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Red Bull Playing Fields, Bristol Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area 1

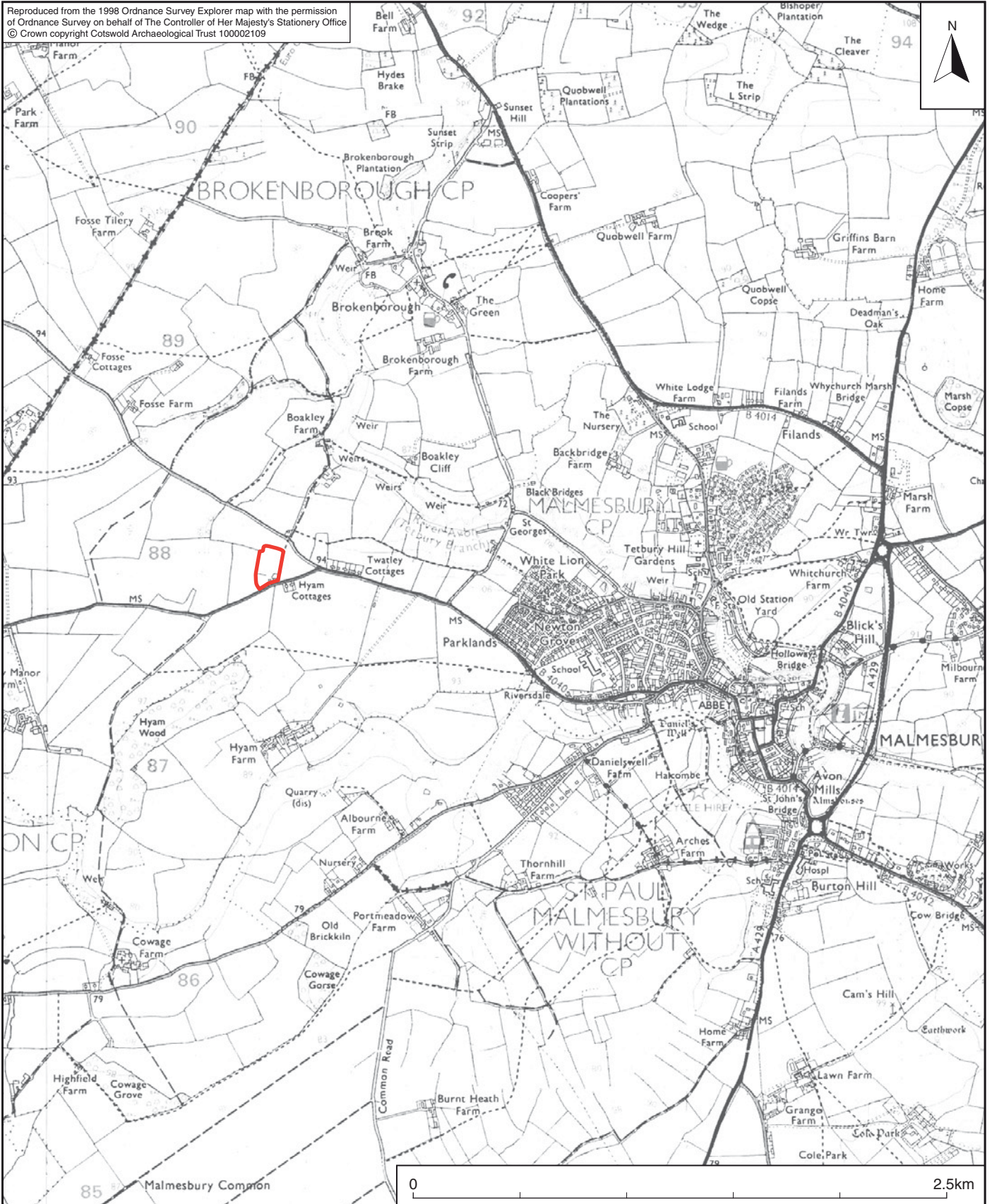
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
101	Layer	Subsoil: mid grey brown clay silt			0.25	
102	Layer	Natural Substrate: light grey gravel and clay			0.3+	

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Modern aggregate and gravel hardstanding			0.4	Modern
201	Layer	Natural Substrate: light grey gravel			1	
202	Layer	Natural Substrate: light grey clay			1.1+	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Red Bull Playing Fields, Bristol Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of changing room facilities at Red Bull Playing Fields, Bristol Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	21 December 2008-10 February 2009	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	N/A	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Red Bull Playing Fields, Bristol Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	184M ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	NGR: ST 9100 8791	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Dave Cudlip and Jon Hart	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (Content
Physical	Wiltshire Museum Heritage	N/A
Paper	Wiltshire Museum Heritage	Trench recording forms, Site plan, Colour and Black/White photographs
Digital	Wiltshire Museum Heritage	Digital Photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Red Bull Playing Fields, Bristol Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 09092		



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**Red Bull Playing Fields, Bristol Road
Malmesbury, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY

RK

SCALE

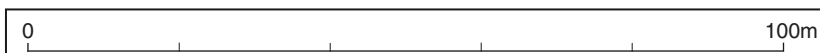
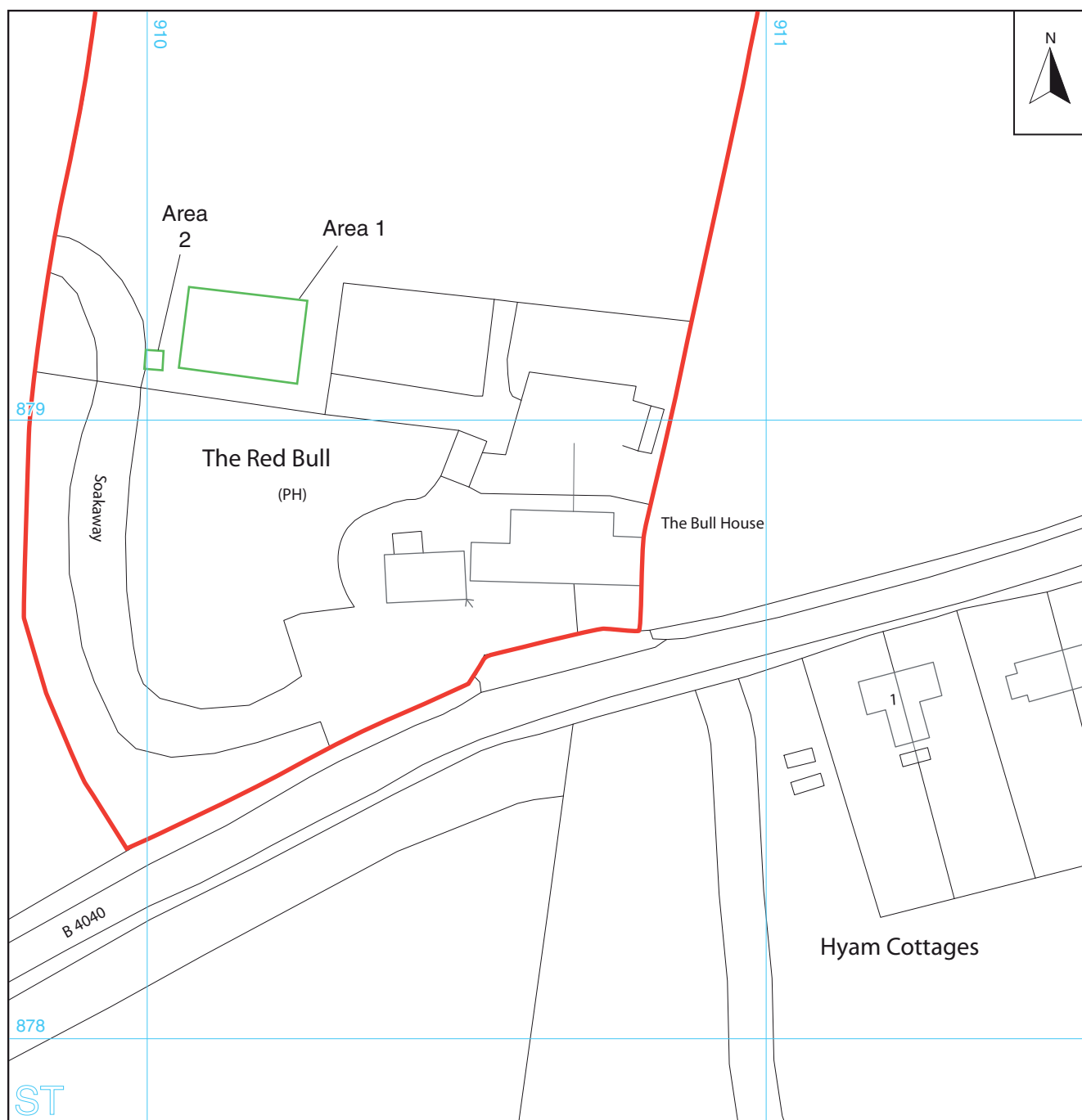
1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2719

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- groundworks



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**Red Bull Playing Fields, Bristol Road
Malmesbury, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE

**The site showing location of
groundworks**

DRAWN BY

RK

SCALE

1:1000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2719

FIGURE NO.

2